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A History of the Y.W.C.A.
in Saskatchewan

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Building Fellowship



A HISTORY 260/26
OF THE Y.W.C.A. IN SASKATCHEWAN

MODERN PERIODICALS



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FOREWORD

Time Marches On

An idea takes form and is developed to meet the need of the people and the times. But as time goes on, if there is to be growth, the form must change and develop, so that the idea or truth embodied can be expressed to meet the needs of the present day.

In the history of the Y.W.C.A.'s of the World we see this demonstrated. Our purpose, because it answers a basic need of life, remains the same but as our vision has expanded and we responded to it, there have been changes in form. History tells the story.

In the following pages is the Saskatchewan story as told by each local association - the starting place or grass roots of the whole Y.W.C.A. movement. As we study our purpose, reaching up to God the source of our being, we go out to include all people of whatever color, race or creed. Thus grew the idea and form of a National and World Y.W.C.A.

In my memory in Saskatchewan we have had visits from World Y.W.C.A. leaders that have been highlights in Y.W.C.A. life. Miss Marianne Mills of the World Office at Geneva; Miss Sosa Mathews of India and Miss Marguerite Pichaud of Ceylon, who came to Canada to attend the World Council Meeting and to observe Western World methods; Miss Estelle Amaron, a Canadian who spent years in Burma and is now in West Africa; Miss Ethel Law who came to the Canadian National Office from New Zealand to take charge of a program department. On one of her visits here she helped with the first planned

Saskatchewan Y.W.C.A. Conference. Miss Suzanne de Dietrich of France, that Spiritual Leader who, after visiting associations in Canada and the United States, wrote her impressions pointing up with understanding the problems in a new country with a scattered population. Miss Van Ash Van Wyck of Holland, World President, came just before the Second World War. Her visit followed that historic meeting of the Y.W.C.A. World Council at Elgin House, Muskoka, Ontario in 1938. Other visitors were Miss Ruth Rouse of England, World President, who succeeded Miss Van Ash Van Wyck. Miss Julia Matouskova of Czecho-Slovakia, a World Council member who joined the National Staff in 1939. And who, of those who took part in them, will ever forget the institutes for volunteers in 1941 conducted by Miss Julia Capen of the National Y.W.C.A. staff of the U.S.A. Plans had been made for her to visit Egypt in 1939 but due to unsettled World conditions the visit was cancelled. All Canada, province by province, had the benefit of her time and talents. A few years later came Miss Winnifred Wygal of the National U.S.A. staff who gave a course on Christian Leadership in the Community.

From our own National Headquarters we have had a visit in 1948 from Mrs. Walter Rean, the First National President officially to visit the West during her term of office. Mrs. Harvey Agnew had been here previously but it was during the period when she was loaned by the Y.W.C.A. to the Federal Government to do a special piece of volunteer war work. Mrs. J. L. Savage came during her term of office as president. Before this time we had come to know her through visits as Chairman of the National Council Y.W.C.A. War Services Committee. Of the National general secretaries, now called executive directors, there was Miss Hedwig Hobrecker who did pioneer work in visiting all

the associations and at that time was practically the only outside contact. She died in Prince Albert in 1938 while on a northern cross-country Y.W.C.A. visit. During the Second World War years there was Miss Louise Gates, now Mrs. Sherwood Eddy, who helped to make possible the great growth and expansion of Y work during that period. Shortly after taking office Miss Lillian Thompson visited the West, getting and giving an overall picture of changing needs from war to peace times. Miss Agnes Roy, the present executive director, because of visits made while holding other National offices, brings to the Canadian Association an intimate knowledge of Saskatchewan.

Visits of departmental secretaries are now more or less regular and with the recent policy of all presidents of local associations and provincial representatives attending the National Annual Meeting, by the sharing of a travel pool, a much closer contact can be maintained and the resolution of problems worked out.

In 1937 Mrs. I. Z. Conboy, President of Saskatoon Y.W.C.A. and I had the privilege of attending the North America Area Conference held in Toronto. This came about because National was concerned that members from the far field should be present and share experiences. Funds were at a low ebb. An anonymous person offered to pay half of the train fare of the delegates. The Y.W.C.A. offered hospitality while in Toronto. We were the two Saskatchewan delegates invited to attend. It was a revelation and an experience to us to share with Eastern Canada, Newfoundland, United States, Mexico and Jamaica problems and growths and to find that

basically they were the same. We had overcome some of the problems that they were struggling with and vice versa, with all seeing new fields and areas of work.

A local association takes its form from past history, vision and the present needs of the community. Let us be watchful that we do not keep the form when the specific need changes or is fulfilled. If we keep a forward look, there is always pioneer work to be done in the realms of body, mind and spirit.

As we review our history, let us take the best from the past and build the future on it.

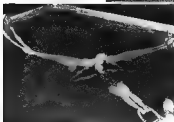
Frances Croome
Frances Croome.

MOOSE JAW



Moose Jaw Y.M.-Y.W.

Club Group
in the Library



Fun in the Pool.

HISTORY

of the

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

MOOSE JAW, SASKATCHEWAN

From the minutes of the first meeting held September 11, 1907 in the basement of The First Baptist Church to consider the organization of a Y.W.C.A. it is noted that Mrs Whittaker presided and Miss Glennie, now Mrs. Brown of Regina, was secretary. Miss Wheatley, who convened a committee to ascertain the feeling of the young ladies of the city in regard to such an organization, reported her canvass to have been satisfactory and stated that a large number of these had signified their willingness to join and to assist in the organization. Mrs. Mary Alexander is recorded as stating she felt the organization was much needed and she was confident the married ladies of the city would heartily co-operate. It was decided to organize and a committee, comprised of Mrs J. H. Laird, Mrs. Mary Alexander, Miss Mayberry, Miss Nixon and Mrs. Whittaker, was elected to nominate a board of twelve directors, four of whom would be appointed for one year, four for two years and four for three years. Those appointed were Mrs. Whittaker, Miss Vrooman, Miss Nixon, Miss Glennie, Miss Wheatley, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Cruickshank, Mrs. J. H. Laird, (convener), Mrs. J. H. Grayson, Mrs. Snell, Mrs. J. D. Simpson and Mrs. Ben Fletcher. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Miss Haddock.

At a meeting on September 13 at the home of Mrs. Mary Alexander the constitution was read. The task of filling executive positions in those days must have been difficult, too - nominations for president were made but each lady named refused to act. Other officers elected were vice-president, Mrs. Mary Alexander; recording secretary, Miss Glennie; corresponding secretary, Miss Nixon; treasurer, Mrs. Snell. Fees for board and room were set at \$20.00 per month and meals at \$4.00 per week. Miss Ethel Cummings filled the office of matron.

Enthusiasm seems to have marked the movement for on the 20th of the same month a meeting was held in the office of A. W. Irwin, with Mrs. Alexander presiding. Reports were received from various committees and the convener stated that there was \$14.00 on hand. Miss Sutherland reported that out of fourteen teachers in the city all had promised to join the Y.W.C.A., with the exception of one. In consequence of a motion that the board of directors should invite four gentlemen, representative of each denomination, to act as an advisory board, the names of Messrs. R. K. Thompson, (Judge) Johnson, A. W. Irwin and P. McLean were mentioned, subject to their consent to act. (It is noted in later reports of 1911 that the advisory board consisted of Messrs. E. N. Saunders, R. Loney, A. E. Davey, R. K. Thompson, I. Woodley and A. W. Irwin. Mr. J. A. MacPherson was appointed auditor. Later, Mr. A. Mayberry filled the vacancy caused by the removal from the city of Mr. Saunders, and J. J. Kern, Sr. was appointed in February of 1912 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. R. K. Thompson.)

The first residence of the Y.W.C.A. was a small white house on Main Street near where the

Safeway Store now stands. This was used until some years later when it was found necessary to increase the accommodation

At a general meeting held in the Presbyterian Church on the evening of September 23 the treasurer was authorized to purchase the necessary books for record purposes - this was the first expenditure in the new project. Considerable time was devoted to the discussion of ways and means. W. J. Brinning promised to donate 30% of all cash sales of the week beginning September 23. It was decided to purchase the furniture from Mrs. Wood. Two committees were appointed, - constitution to draft a constitution appropriate to local conditions and comprised of Miss Wheatley, Miss Vrooman, Miss Nixon, and Miss Glennis; and finance whose members were Mrs. J. D. Simpson, Mrs. J. H. Laird and Mrs. J. H. Grayson. As a means of raising funds the first function took the form of a social evening with the following committee in charge: Mrs. J. H. Grayson, Mrs. P. McPherson, Miss Laidman, Miss Steward, Miss Sutherland, Miss White and Mrs. J. H. Laird.

The first meeting of the new year, on January 6, 1908, was attended by seven members. Receipts of \$181.40 were reported, and running expenses totalled \$157.95. Indications of rapid growth were evident and it was agreed to purchase further supplies of dishes and some carpet, also to place one new bed in the large room. A later meeting notes a committee was formed to see Dr. Geiser about renting a piano.

At a subsequent meeting Mrs. J. H. Laird gave a verbal report of her visit to the Y.W.C.A. at Brandon. A decision was made to purchase 200

membership cards for distribution and in the interests of publicity to place a notice in the waiting room at the C.P.R. station.

The May, 1908 minutes record that it was decided an opportune time to draft a set of rules for the boarding department relating to hours and also to the duties of occupants in regard to the rooms. The function that month took the form of an ice cream social, when Mrs. R. Cruickshank, Mrs. H. Snell, Mrs. J. H. Laird and Mrs. J. D. Simpson were responsible for making the ice cream. During the succeeding months several attempts were made to create interest through the medium of advertising, and with this end in view a sign was placed at the C.P.R. station giving the location of the home.

The first deficit in funds was recorded in October, 1908, when the receipts for the month were \$184.00 and the expenses exceeded that amount by \$43 90. The annual meeting in November disclosed annual receipts of \$2,543.95 and disbursements of \$2,483.22.

Things continued to progress and in June, 1911, it was decided to purchase the home of G. M. Annable (now 136 Ominca Street West) for the sum of \$8,000.00 - he making a cash donation of \$500.00. Possession was granted for August 1. As a means of raising funds for this, a special campaign was made among the girls by means of a tea. Miss Morton, General Secretary of the Regina Y.W.C.A., was present and addressed the girls.

At a September meeting Miss Davies, general secretary, urged upon those present the need

of a larger building. She pointed out that the object of the Y.W.C.A. was to provide a Christian home and not merely a place to stay. She advocated a place large enough to accommodate 100 women, with a library and rest room. This would doubtless cost in the neighborhood of \$100,000.00 and she recommended that Mr. Zimmer be consulted regarding plans. There was a special meeting of the advisory board and the board of directors in the Y.M.C.A. building at which it was decided to ask Mr. Sayer of Winnipeg to act as campaign organizer. The campaign committee appointed to deal with the matter included Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. J. H. Laird, Mrs. Clara Hansburger, Mrs. E. N. Hopkins, Mrs. Wm. Houston, Mrs. Church and Miss Mayberry. However, because of the condition of the crops and the long winter ahead and also as the financial outlook was rather gloomy, more so than a few weeks ago, it was decided to defer the appeal for funds which had been planned. The price of board and room was advanced to \$22.00 per month and meal tickets to \$4.50 per week. Plans were made for the first week of prayer, the arrangements being in co-operation with the clergymen of the city.

In February 1912, Miss Davies as general secretary, was able to collect only \$2,200.00 on payment of property. Mr. A. W. Irwin, however, advanced \$1,000.00 and the Kensington Club loaned \$175.00. At this meeting plans were discussed and it was decided to proceed to erect the present building which was completed in 1913. Mrs. G. A. Maybee reported that the sum of \$561.71 had been raised through a series of chain teas. The first bazaar was held in April of 1913.

Among those who helped the work forward by substantial donations were citizens whose names follow:

W. J. Binning	\$ 1,000
Barrie and Meldrum	1,000
Joe Battell	1,000
A. W. Irwin	2,000
J. H. Kern, Sr.	2,000
G. A. Maybee	2,000
William Grayson	1,000
Senator J. H. Rose	2,000
H. Y. Smith	1,000

On May 28, 1912, the advisory board met in connection with the building of the present Y.W.C.A. Those present included E. N. Hopkins, R. Loney, A. E. Davey, A. W. Irwin, John Bellamy, William Grayson and Miss Davies, general secretary of the Y.W.C.A. Mr Hopkins presided and Rev E. J. Chegwin acted as secretary. In August, in Mr. Chegwin's office, a meeting was held with Mrs. Alexander presiding, when Rev. E. J. Chegwin and G. A. Maybee were present and E. N. Hopkins, John Bellamy, R. Loney and I. L. Woodley (his granddaughter, Miss Velma Cross, was later a resident) were appointed the building committee with Mr. Woodley as treasurer of the committee. (Mrs. Houston was appointed secretary of the board on September 14, 1912). In October the contractor reported delay in excavating for the building owing to difficulty in securing labour.

In October, 1912, Mr. Bellamy's house, which was afterwards referred to as the Main Street home, was rented, and power was granted the house

committee to purchase furniture and other necessities. In December of the same year the second house was opened on Ominica Street West. Mrs. C. Doig, now of Brandon, was appointed convener of the house committee. The nurses of the city were asked to meet with the furnishing committee regarding furnishing the club room. In November, 1912, Mrs. J. H. Laird reported \$800 paid to the contractor and asked authority to pay such bills as rendered by him.

In January of the next year (1913) the board of directors met in the Main Street home with seven present. Mrs. C. Hansburger presided. A Christmas present of a reading lamp from Miss M. Landman was acknowledged. A resolution was passed in favour of asking the city for a grant of \$20,000. Mrs. J. H. Laird, Miss Yuill, Miss Davies and Mrs. G. A. Maybee were the committee appointed for the task of approaching the council. Subsequent reports show that they were favourably received and later, by means of a bylaw submitted to the people, the grant was made by the city council.

In 1913 a sewing class for girls was started, the sewing machine being donated by Mrs. Doig. In later reports it is chronicled that a second sewing machine was donated by the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

It was also noted that the association pledged co-operation with the immigration department in reply to a letter from Miss Labin, advising that a port worker had been appointed to assist women travellers at ocean ports. Under the educational committee, proposals of ways and means of reaching the foreign-born for the purpose of teaching them English were discussed. The social committee was responsible for

entertaining the young women of the Allen Company's departmental store. Mention was made of the successor of the English Girls' Clubs, which later donated \$116.00 to the furnishing committee. The employment bureau was credited with being an important factor of the work. At this time a new department, the Travellers' Aid was entered upon with Nurse Rutherford (later Mrs. W. F. Ironside) in charge. Assistance was given by the C.P.R. by placing lockers and shelves and a telephone at the disposal of the secretary in the station.

By this time the work of the association had grown so that there were more applications than the accommodation provided for. The latest enrollment was 25.

In March, 1913, the advisory committee awarded the contract for the erection of the building to Frost Bros. for the sum of \$12,920; the Acme Electric Company received the contract for wiring at a cost of \$1,160 and it was expected that the fixtures would cost in the neighbourhood of \$700.

Messrs. W. Grayson, A. H. Irwin and E. N. Hopkins, with Mr. Thompson, Mrs. J. H. Laird and Miss Davies, were in charge of putting in the heating plant. Plans were laid for holding a Made-in-Canada sale and later reports show that this venture netted the sum of \$1,068.03. It was decided to solicit donations from the young ladies of the city. First mention of the swimming pool is made here and the matter was referred to the finance committee. Later their findings are recorded in favour of deferring the putting in of a pool and still later they received a refund of \$1,335 from the contractor in consequence. In 1917

the matter of a swimming pool is again mentioned when representatives of the Local Council of Women suggested that the pool be built. This received the unanimous approval of the board of directors. Subsequently the pool was completed through the generosity of the Kiwanis Club, which donated the sum of \$2,400, and with incidental gifts, made the total approximately \$3,000.

On May 16, 1913, the laying of the cornerstone of the big building by Mrs. Mary Alexander proved the crowning event of the year. Mrs. Alexander spoke of the interest awakened and the substantial assistance given the project. Miss Una Saunder (later of England) as a member of the National Y.W.C.A., gave a helpful address.

In June, however, matters of financial dearth presented difficulties in securing sufficient funds to carry on the work. Application was therefore made to the Northern Trust Company for a grant of \$30,000. In the interval subscriptions of \$1,000 were raised in the city. A few hundred dollars were collected in small amounts. A pressing bill was that of \$1,700 for duties and freight paid by the committee, so they borrowed \$1,800 from the furnishings committee.

Notwithstanding handicaps the work proceeded and in May, 1914, the Main Street Home was closed and on May 16 the board of directors held the first meeting in the new building.

On May 29 the general meeting was held in the gymnasium, with 50 present. Mrs. Mary Alexander presided and Mrs. A. A. Graham led the

devotional period All joined in the singing of the hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" followed by a prayer led by members of the board of directors Mrs Alexander gave the address and Mrs Wellington sang a solo Mrs John Bellamy, on behalf of the board, moved a vote of thanks to the president, Mrs Alexander, and the treasurer, Mrs. J. H. Laird, presented them each with a bouquet of flowers. Votes of appreciation were tendered the local press, members of the advisory board, the city for free light, and others who had helped. Thanks were given the Singer Sewing Machine Company for the gift of a sewing machine; Mr B. C. Crichton for a clock and Mrs Nicholas Flood Davin for the gift of the grandfather clock, which stood in the reception hall for many years and is now in the lounge of the present club rooms in the Y.M.C.A. building

In July, 1914, among other matters of business discussed was the purchase of an electric iron This, which was to be the only iron allowed in the building, was to be rented to the girls at ten cents an hour and was to be kept in the office. A tag day was planned.

Miss Gould (later of movie fame) was engaged in September as the first director of the physical department. A Glee Club was organized under the leadership of Miss Hunter. The next year Miss M. M. Gledhill, later of Toronto, organized a millinery class.

" 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit' saith the Lord of Hosts" was the motto taken from the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Y.W.C.A. in May 1916 The duty of members was pointed out as --

It shall be the duty of each member of the Association to advance the purpose of the Association by her consistent personal life, by making the Association known to others and by rendering any service possible in the work of the Association.

During this year the annual membership campaign did not get under way and a considerable decline of membership resulted -- 84 adults and 131 children 2,680 residents were accommodated during the year with an average of 126 meals per day at 22 1/2 cents.

Described as a very necessary part of "Y" work is the Travellers' Aid Department Various churches and other organizations helped finance this branch of work Mrs. Alexander, who was the Secretary at this time, met 2,837 trains during the year and assisted over 4,000 people at the station in the year.

An employment bureau was instrumental in placing women and girls as domestic help on farms and with city residents

It is noted that the house next door to the Y building proper was leased for one year at \$35.00 per month, any repairs to be done at the renter's expense.

Mention was made of the following men acting as advisors: Messrs. Maybee, H. C. Clark, A. W. Irwin, W. Grayson, A. Hitchcock, Caulder and Mayor.

Note:- Basketball Grounds at Alexander School were put in shape for \$10.00. In November, 1919 the minutes show that the Physical Director asked for use of the Y.M.C.A. for two nights a week, as the basketball floor space was too small. The Physical Director was later approached by the Y.M.C.A. asking that a combined demonstration be put on in the armouries.

Free Christmas dinner to all girls in house and those outside who are away from home, seemed to be the custom. About 35 appeared to be average attendance at the Sunday evening sing-song.

In the summer of 1918 the notes recorded a new washing machine for \$100.00. However, two years later the House Committee reported that \$10.00 a month could be saved by sending the washing to a laundry.

The Robin Hood Mills very generously made a yearly subscription of \$50.00 to be applied on budget. A \$90.00 donation came from the Windcrest School District toward the new swimming pool.

Five hundred dollars was the amount of the grant asked of the City Council to assist in the Travellers' Aid work; however, \$300.00 was the actual grant received for this work. The same minutes show that a rebate on light and water accounts was granted. This same year \$500.00 was sent to Dominion Council to assist in Western field work. The October, 1922 meeting adjourned to meet with Mr. S. A. Hamilton and Mr. Forbes regarding a new swimming pool. At a special meeting the same month, Mrs. Alexander tendered her resignation as Travellers' Aid Secretary, which was accepted with deepest regret. Mrs. Alexander had been Travellers' Aid Secretary for five

years and seven months; she was a prime worker in the organization of the Y.W.C.A. in Moose Jaw. Mrs Unwin succeeded Mrs. Alexander as Travellers' Aid Secretary. A resolution was passed to change the date of the Annual Meeting from May to January commencing with the year 1923.

In June of 1923 the Travellers' Aid Secretary reported many interesting incidents, -- the conductor of the Shaunavon train brought the Secretary a small lad under five years of age who had to wait three hours to get his train for Regina; he had a Junior Red Cross badge pinned to his coat -- the trouble was a tubercular knee and the Junior Red Cross were sending him to the San at Fort Qu'Appelle. The Secretary took care of this lad and put him in the conductor's care for Regina. In November of the same year the Secretary reported "one woman was cared for upon coming out of hospital due to the fact that she had lost the address of her husband while hospitalized -- however, after about two weeks she found him. She now has a position and will no doubt pay when she can." Assistance was rendered an 80-year old crippled lady en route to Ottawa and obliged to remain over night. She was sent to York Hospital and was loud in her praises of kindness received from both Mrs. Unwin and Miss Shepherd. Care was also given to an 11-month old baby whose mother got left at Regina. Mrs. Unwin looked after the child until her mother arrived on the next train.

It was in February, 1924 that the Y.W.C.A. Board met with a delegation from the Kiwanis Club to discuss the swimming pool. Mr. McDaniel, President of the Kiwanis Club, and Mr. Thompson, architect, were present. The delegation reported

that the Kiwanis Club would undertake all expenses of the swimming pool, which would cost \$2,500.00. The work in the boiler room would have to be undertaken by the Y.W.C.A. Board of Directors -- this work to cost in the neighbourhood of \$2,000 00. At a meeting a few days later, it was moved that each member raise \$100 00 if possible. By the next meeting in March work on this project has begun and members seemed to be enthusiastically raising the necessary money. Apparently money had previously been raised for this purpose and upon investigation was found to be still in the Hitchcock and McCullough Bank, and would be turned over to the Board by Mr. Hitchcock. Great enthusiasm in money-raising projects was carried out by canvassing, teas and donations from such organizations as the I.O.D.E., Kensington Club and the Caledonia Club. It was a busy spring of preparation for the swimming pool which opened June 5, 1924, with 300 present. One hundred registered as pupils and 15 as swimmers and a month later it was reported that 507 had used the pool; by the year-end the total was 3,557. Receipts for the first week totalled \$102.00 and the second week \$93 57. Miss Smellie had charge of the swimming pool at this time.

Mrs. Alexander's death is referred to frequently and in June, 1924 mention is made of a letter of thanks being sent to the executors of Mrs. Alexander's Estate for cheque received. Later a Mrs. Wm. Alexander was invited to become a member. It was the custom to hold the regular monthly board meetings in the afternoons and the annual meeting in the evening. In the December, 1924 meeting it was decided to hold the annual meeting in the afternoons as well in order that more of the women who found it difficult to leave their homes might attend.

A house-to-house campaign for new members took place each fall, which usually proved successful, obtaining some 400 to 500 members; in 1924 there were 629 members. The membership committee for this year consisted of Mrs. W. F. McBean, Mrs. H. C. Bingham, Miss R. M. Finley, Miss McIntyre and Mrs. W. T. Cunningham. In some instances it was noted that each member would bring in four new members. In 1925 there were 706 members. Previous to the annual meeting each member of the Board was asked to extend a verbal personal invitation to every member whom she secured for the Association during the fall membership campaign. Early in 1925 the Badminton Club was organized with a formal opening when the players from the armouries gave exhibition games and taught the girls how to play.

A 1925 motion read "that we affiliate with the Local Council of Women, the representatives to be Mrs. Church, Miss McIntyre and Mrs. Bellamy."

Basketball was always one of the interesting recreations in the physical department. The Y.W.C.A. basketball team came out on top in the city Basketball League, having only one loss during the series, and brought home the Dr. Hugh Young Cup for the first time. This cup was the first to be presented for League competition. Later the board of directors donated a cup for Y.W.C.A. teams in competition. In 1926-27, under the leadership of Miss Donna Smellie, the team won provincial honours.

The Recreation Committee reported that they needed a supervisor for the playgrounds at \$140.00 a month and arrangements were made for a tag day.

to raise funds for this purpose. A locker fund was established and twelve lockers ordered -- teas and home cooking were some of the means of raising about \$130.00 necessary. On Mother's Day special note paper was left on writing desks and in the library and a further note shows that some 200 sheets were used. On May 28, 1925 the "Thursday Night Girls" brought their activities to a close. Through the courtesy of Mr. Sifton, the Domestic Science Room of the Central Collegiate was placed at their disposal for one evening. Miss St. Ruth and Miss Sissons gave a lesson in candy making. (Miss St. Ruth is a member of the Board at the present time, 1954.)

It was in this year of 1925 that the "Gym" room underwent a thorough renovation as well as having the balcony removed. A club room for "Gym" girls was made available in an office downstairs and the Senior Gym girls held a tea and home cooking sale to raise money for furniture.

A Sunday Night At Home, in the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. alternately, made much discussion and it was finally noted that these took place quite successfully. It was mentioned that a party at the Y.M.C.A. including boys and girls was quite successful.

In November, 1925, it was reported that the pool was losing about \$100.00 a month. It was decided to close the pool during the cold winter months. The Kiwanis Club called to ascertain the reason for closing and if a matter of finance, they had money to help. The temperature of the water seemed to be a problem, however and on December 18, 1925, it was noted that Miss Smellie, General Secretary, expressed regrets that the Board felt it

necessary to close the pool at this time. Throughout the minutes it was noted that work was done in China, Japan and Korea and money-making projects carried out for this purpose. Visiting missionaries from these countries spoke to members and house girls at various times.

At the annual meeting in 1926 it was stated that for thirteen years one secretary had carried on Travellers' Aid work, and that at this time they now had two full-time workers - Mrs Unwin and Miss Urquhart - and between these two 3,749 trains were met during the year; thousands of people were directed to their destinations; many an innocent girl was shielded and not a few rescued from moral danger. Aged women and little children were special objects of care and kindness. Sad hearts needing sympathy and comfort were often cheered. Several girls came from overseas and greatly welcomed the friendliness of the secretaries when arriving. The secretaries were always on the lookout for girls coming to the city alone and when need called for it, they were taken to the Y.W.C.A. until work was found or their friends located.

It was the custom at this time to have the staff gather together each morning for prayers. From September to May in the evening, vesper services were held. Some of the speakers were Rev. Mr McKeigan, Dr Bland, Archdeacon Johnson, Mrs. Heasman, Mrs Fraser. The Rev. Mr. Hind conducted a series of Bible studies during Lent. In co-operation with the Y.M.C.A. a series of "after Church" socials were conducted to make an At Home evening for young men and women away from home. The attendance at these socials rose from 60 to 170 and ninety per cent of those attending were away from home.

Permanent residents and transients made the Y.W.C.A. a busy place. The task of finding employment was difficult; many girls came to the city for educational purposes and wished to find employment in return for board and room; others found country life dull and monotonous in the winter and wished to seek employment in the city. Others came without money and were cared for at the Y.W.C.A., until work was found. A lengthy list of immigrants were also looked after by letter or called upon.

The library and living rooms were used extensively by girls living outside the association as well as by the girls in residence. Many friends donated books and magazines which were placed in the library. A notation in January, 1926 states that the girls in residence had a social evening, the outcome of which resulted in a request for two dozen hymn books, song sheets and a typewriter.

Senator Ross appeared to be a generous contributor to the Y.W.C.A.

At this time it seemed that there was accommodation for 92 people in the building, including staff. Attendance in the Gym was 1,266, basketball 150, volleyball 152, badminton 420 and pool 654. The overall October, 1925 attendance was noted at 2,265.

The pool opened in April. Later it was agreed that the girls of the supervised playgrounds use the pool one day a week for one month with three supervisors; admission to pool -- one cake of soap, a towel and a grey bathing suit. One hundred to 150 attended each day.

Going through the minutes from 1918 to 1926 it was noted that payments were made quite regularly on the mortgage, which amounts varied from \$100.00 to \$3,000.00. Money raised by membership fees, the fall bazaars and the rent of the house next door went toward paying off the mortgage. By the end of 1926 the mortgage was reduced to \$2,500.00. House rent appeared to be \$40.00 per month and proceeds from bazaars varied from \$300.00 to \$500.00 a year.

The story of the activities of the Y.W.C.A. in the period from 1927 to 1931 reflects the slow, unbelievable decline from comfort and money in the bank to the heartbreaking frustration of depression. The minutes of early 1927 indicate the prosperity of that day - the Board unanimously voted to pay their secretary \$35.00 a month - a salary increase for Miss Irene Anderson - plus two meals a day. True to their task, the ladies had just instituted a series of Charm Talks for the Winona Club, which was affiliated with the Y.W.C.A. in Moose Jaw. Feminine-wise they fretted about the need of a new hair dryer since the old one could not possibly be repaired. With thrift in mind they decided to try a fan -- but the February minutes disclose the fact that the fan just would not do -- and the Board cannily found a man who COULD repair the old hair dryer! Ladies though they were, their business instinct was apt -- and they formed a delegation to visit the City Council and ask for a flat rate for their swimming pool water. The price of 9 cents per thousand gallons was granted - a favour given the Y.M.C.A. at the same time.

In 1927 times were flush - there were 41 girls in permanent residence. The Board of Directors, mindful of their duty to young women, played hostess to the Collegiate Girls' Hockey Team on the occasion of their playing the team from Edmonton. It started out a most auspicious year for the Y.W., when their "Y6" Team carted home the Murray Cup - emblematic of the provincial basketball championship, and the fact that this was the first time the cup came to southern Saskatchewan was heavily underlined in the minutes

Those were the days of gentility and crates of eggs from grateful lady travellers who made their temporary homes in the Y.W. were received from time to time. In April, 1927, a gueset from Weyburn wrote thanking the Y.W. for "the spirit of kindness and love" shown her during her visit; and to lend a little material support to her thanks she sent along a 12-dozen crate of eggs!

Looking back twenty-eight years, it's easy to smile at some of the things that worried the board - while their popular cafeteria averaged 4,325 meals per month, the ladies took a vote and decided to buy a serviette holder at \$1.50.

For his services the janitor was getting \$85.00 per month plus meals if he was blessed with the single state - but should he have a wife to feed too, it was \$75.00 per month and loans - "but no concessions!"

An unusually strong theme of support for and understanding of the young employed woman runs through the entire period. In May, 1927, the Board

at the request of the employed Girls' Council approved a 48-hour week for women, Wednesday half-holiday for ten months of the year.

With a houseful of these girls to look after it's little wonder that one of them finds herself reported in the minutes for "having left the plug in the bathtub and the taps running with a resulting deluge in the gym. Girl's father will pay the \$20.00 damages."

The Y.W.C.A. had many good friends in Moose Jaw; among them a Mr Kelcher who suggested the street be paved between First and Second Avenues on Ominica Street West, the property which held the Y.W. This was to cost the Y.W. \$75.00 a year for 15 years, but Mr Kelcher stoutly offered to pay \$50.00 per year of this "as long as he was here " Bazaars in 1927 seemed much more imaginative things than they do now. For their early summer event, the Board decided on a Bungalow Bazaar with a room designed to simulate each room in the home. Pot-holders were sold in the kitchen and antimacassars in the parlor.

The ladies primly reported too, that the Triennial Convention in Toronto had "strenuously opposed the principle of commercialized sport among women and girls under leadership of men's organization."

1927 was the year it cost the Y Board \$167.35 to send their General Secretary, Miss de Wolfe, to Toronto and back, complete with berth, and all her meals and expenses for a week.

Taking stock of their healthy supplies the ladies found they had 136 quarts of home preserves, 26 jars

jelly. Meal tickets were selling like hot cakes at 71 3/7 cents per day, or \$5.00 per week. Content with this situation they agreed to spend \$10.00 or \$12.00 for 500 printed pamphlets to be sent into the homes, telling the story of the work done by the Y.W.C.A.

In October, 1927 a ticklish subject was raised - "Shall we allow mixed dancing or not?" Apparently it was too large a thing to be tackled the very day it had been bruited about, for the following notation in the minutes reads "Janitor, Mr. Skidmore, to get \$90.00 monthly plus three rooms, light, water and heat." That fall, the Y's gym classes attracted 73 seniors, 20 intermediates, 86 juniors and 7 tinies under five years of age. November saw the dictum - "no mixed dancing in the Y.W.C.A. Gym". Instead the Religious Committee was asked to buy three or four games. At Thanksgiving the Y Cafeteria served their usual family dinner at 60 cents a plate. A huge success, the event possibly encouraged them to pay off \$100.00 interest on the mortgage and \$1,000.00 of the principal.

December was a busy month - windows had to be tightened and one of the Board members recommended "Chamberlain weather stripping at 18 cents per foot, less 10% as the only guaranteed material". Christmas meant a lot to the ladies of the Board; they did their best to provide a merry, wholesome time for the young ladies who would be away from home at the Yuletide. Every feminine clerk in the stores of Moose Jaw was notified that coffee and sandwiches would be served free of charge on Christmas Eve at 10:15 after the stores closed. Christmas Dinner was served at 1:30 the next day. Their thoughtfulness was rewarded too, for the

minutes report that Mr. Kelcher gave "his usual donation", Woolworth's loaned candle stands for the dining tables and the C.P.R. donated a tree. That was the month the men asked permission to smoke while playing badminton, a concession allowed to a select few males who belonged to the various badminton clubs formed within the Y.W. However, the ladies flatly refused a further male encroachment and the word went forth - No Smoking.

January opened brightly in 1928 for the annual meeting reported that only \$115.00 was left to be paid on their long-standing mortgage. With a 21st birthday in sight that year the ladies renewed their efforts to rid themselves of this financial burden.

Although the Y W. had started in Moose Jaw in 1907 it was not until 1912 that the work of the Travellers' Aid was undertaken and their faithful attendance upon this large task is reported every month, when their employee who looked after this business gave great assistance to an unbelievable number of women travelling to and through Moose Jaw.

Dr. Rondeau, an artist who lived at Rouleau came forth in January, 1928 to donate a group of pictures to the Y.W. and the ladies were deeply appreciative of his gift.

As was their custom, the Board evaluated and took stock every month - like a woman emptying her handbag. Very matter of factly they reported "Cash on hand - \$20.78". To swell their coffers they had a tea that March and a basketball game, starring their Y Team and the Edmonton

University Basketball Team. Although the visitors carried off the honours winning 21-20, the ladies found themselves with a tidy profit of \$86.00. Raising money was always a chore - and always will be - but Board members thought nothing of planning a tag day, "door to door of the entire city". In May they had a pleasant surprise -- \$1,000.00 was bequeathed the Y.W. from the "late Mr. Bellamy's estate."

The General Secretary, who was reigning power among the Board, had the janitor prepare a flower bed in front of the building and she appeared before a regular monthly meeting to ask where she could get free plants or roots, or could she buy some? Although the good lady was given her plants, she was asked to resign later that summer for "lack of club work"!

Summer 1928 was busy - the Y.W. in Moose Jaw arranged to feed the Musical Festival entrants from Yorkton and after feeding these children 282 meals daily for three days, they had racked up a profit of \$165.00 on the nominal charge of \$1.00 per day per child. From their tag day they netted \$359.55

Prizes for the Sports Day planned by the Y.W. that summer were also approved - bronze medals at 90 cents and bar pins at 50 cents

Flush with success and making arrangements to burn their mortgage, the ladies decided to buy an electric polisher. But there was no false security or wanton waste for the ladies approached the Kiwanis Club that year for a donation for the upkeep of their swimming pool and then the "Y6" Basket-

ball Team wanted to bring in an outside coach and practice without a fee, the answer was "no".

The extension committee of the Board of Directors took a forward step that year - they undertook to teach Ukrainian girls living on South Hill, in gym work in their community hall

The swimming pool seems to have been a millstone about the necks of the Y. W. Board - it was their greatest financial headache - and while they could afford to redecorate 54 rooms at \$5.00 per room, they appealed to the Rotary and Gyro Clubs for funds. It seems strange that a year as black and desperate as 1929 should start out with such a portentous augury for in January 1929, the Y.W.C.A. burned the mortgage. It was easily their greatest victory and the event was a proud one liberally sprinkled with civic dignitaries and blue and white candles, one large blue and two small white. When the building had been completed the mortgage balance had been \$27,000.00. There had been help along the way - a \$7,000 00 grant from the City of Moose Jaw; \$1,000.00 from the Malden Estate; \$500.00 from their late president and founder, Mrs. Mary Alexander; and latterly \$1,000 00 from the John Bellamy Estate. Mr. Bellamy gave the first subscription toward the mortgage. Greetings on that occasion came from Rev. E. J. Chegwin who had made a speech on the laying of the cornerstone. Referring to this happy event Mrs J. F. Lauby, the secretary in 1929, records - "The greatest event in our history is that we tonight are looking into the future, full of hope and courage; not ready to give up because this task is accomplished, but willing to go forward in the years which lie ahead, and which we

trust will be carried on by those who take up our tasks."

Original board members present included Mrs. J. H. Laird, who had served 18 years and four months as a member; Mrs. F. J. Grobb and Mrs. John Bellamy, 18 years; and Mrs. G. A. Maybee, 17 years.

With renewed enthusiasm the board took up its tasks - the Educational Committee had a book shower when 125 books were added to the library, intensive Lenten programs were planned, plus a spring demonstration. The Rotary Club donated \$50.00 to assist the Y in its Travellers' Aid work and the demonstration netted \$138.00. Even then trouble with the finances started to brew. In April, 1929 there was a debit balance of \$1,240.15. On top of that the July minutes report the need of a new boiler - \$570.00. But nothing fazed the ladies. At this very meeting Miss Johnson, the general secretary, stated "Our Association should be emerging into a new place in community life. It should be recognized increasingly as an education and opinion-forming agency." After a most upsetting report from their Travellers' Aid representative concerning the very young girls with whom she had to deal, the Board asked the National Office to request the Department of Immigration not to allow such young girls to come to Canada.

It was a hot, dry July and money was not the only commodity getting scarce - so was water. The City Council politely asked the Board to close their swimming pool. With typical feminine logic the ladies "thought we might get a week or two of rain

in August" and decided to ask the City to let the pool stay open.

That was the summer the Retail Clerks' Association asked the Y.W. Board for an expression of sympathy and again they went on record as supporting shorter hours, and half-holidays, this time throughout the year. As always we find a strong key-note of church work and devotions in these minutes for the ladies were conscious of their pledge to cherish the soul as well as body and mind. A visiting Y.W. official referred to them as "successors to devout, energetic pioneer women" and urged them on in their work.

In the fall of 1929 they introduced a "Weight Normalization" program, an employment agency for girls, and fostered a group of Norwegian and Overseas girls who were working in the Y.W.C.A. English classes got underway even though the little money required to carry them on seemed far away. In January, 1930 they record their first free meals for unemployed girls and in February the minutes give definite signs of financial trouble. But with an indomitable will the ladies kept going. On April 4, 1930 they held a Folk Dance Festival given by the South Hill Extension Group which now met in Tapley Hall. In June they supported a Local Council of Women resolution not to serve liquor at banquets, another resolution was sent to the Local Council supporting their demand for a Delinquent Girls' Home. While they entertained Normalites at quite a large gathering that spring they grimly recorded "Unpaid room rents - \$20.00".

By September a committee had been formed to make arrangements with the City for penniless girls. They closed the swimming pool on August 31, 1930 but started a story-telling hour for the children each Saturday morning. Pressed for funds they stoutly refused the commission offered by a taxi company for anyone taking a cab from the Y.W.C.A.

Probably the happiest event of 1930 was their Made-in-Canada exhibit held in November. For this they canvassed local merchants and national firms for items they would give and which the ladies in turn sold at their Exhibit. It was a great success socially but the minutes fail to divulge the profit - if such there was. In 1931 the Y.W.C.A. officially affiliated with the Local Council of Women. Although their minutes are a gloomy tale of financial disability, their work and contribution to the community during this trying year is astounding. In 1931 they served 900 women, 26 organizations used their building, girls taking their English classes included Russians, Roumanians, Polish and Norwegians. 3,728 persons were assisted through their Travellers' Aid work which they carried on almost entirely without assistance except for a few skimpy donations from some of the churches. They ran their unemployment agency throughout 1931 aiding 406 women and they collected tin foil from the citizens with the aid of the local school children. If their coffers were slim their energies seemed to have doubled. They canvassed the business men for funds, they had a membership drive, and at the annual meeting in January, 1932 they were able to say "We held our own, financially", during 1931.

Going through the minutes of the Y.W.C.A. Board from 1932 to 1940 points of interest were picked out and recorded here for history-making purposes

Due to the financial condition arising the Y.W. Board held a meeting with the Advisory Committee in May, 1932 and a motion was made by Mr. A. W. Irwin and seconded by Mr. S. M. Thureston that the Trustee Board consent to the Board of Directors obtaining a loan of \$5,000.00 to pay current bills then overdue, same was carried. However, later on it was noted that an electric refrigerator was purchased.

At a special meeting it was decided to accept the offer of an insurance company to sell the boiler for \$1,250.00 and later decided to accept an offer from Mr. Frost to install a new heating system for \$2,000 00. Mrs. Drynan, who was acting president at that time advised the Board that the Frost Limited could not install the heating system so could not accept the offer - this all during July and August - and later on in the November minutes it was noted that a cheque was written to Moose Jaw Plumbing and Heating re installing boiler.

In September, 1932 the Executive Committee recommended that Miss Johnson endeavour to close the upper floor. It was decided that the playgrounds committee was no longer necessary as supervision was under the direction of the Parks Board. The Physical and Health Department discussed plans regarding free service for deserving children of unemployed men.

February, 1933 showed the finance committee recommendation that staff salaries be reduced, such as the cook's from \$35.00 to \$25.00 per month and the physical instructress to be reduced from \$40.00 to \$25.00; also that the insurance policy be dropped. In March it was suggested that the services of the physical instructress be dispensed with owing to the lack of funds. In May it was decided to offer delegates to conventions the rate of \$1.00 for room and breakfast. The Finance Committee recommended in June that only half of the taxes of \$70.00 be paid. Later in August the treasurer gave a full report showing a total indebtedness of \$2,479.38. The Advisory Board suggested at this time that the Y.M. and Y.W. go together in a large drive for funds to alleviate the financial situation.

The Finance Committee began the year 1934 by stating that as expenses exceeded the receipts they urged the strictest economy. The Health Education Committee sent a letter to the Kiwanis Club asking for assistance in financing a system of heating water in the pool. A May Tag Day earned \$132.00 with 51 taggers working. At the June meeting it was decided to renew one insurance policy on building for \$20,000.00 and reduce the insurance on furniture to \$2,000.00 - premiums not to be paid until after the fall drive for funds. Miss Johnston, General Secretary, congratulated the Board in December on having at least been able to catch up with a receding budget. The Finance Committee reported in March, 1935 that the hot water boiler was in poor condition. July brought a letter from City Engineers re an account for water service which had not been paid and it was decided to write the council asking them to write off the account.

Amidst all this financial heartbreak Miss Mooney, Physical Instructress tendered her resignation in August. September brought requests for increases in salaries, but owing to the circumstances nothing could be done. The October campaign objective was set at \$2,500.00 and later on in November it was reported that \$1,556.78 had been realized.

In the spring of 1936 it is noted that the Board were still corresponding with the City in connection with the relaying of water pipes at a cost of \$135.36 and following an interview with the mayor, at his suggestion a letter was sent to Council requesting that the relaying be cancelled. Salaries of two maids were raised from \$10.00 to \$13.50 per month. August, 1936 showed the City's cancellation of water bills which were long overdue. The resignation of Mrs. K. Drynan was accepted and Mrs. C. Johnston agreed to act as president. A membership campaign for funds was set at \$2,000.00; amount received in canvass was \$1,530.00. Mrs. Bamford reported that \$85.00 had been raised at a bazaar in December.

"The house next door" was a February, 1937 discussion when it was felt that the necessary repairs could not be made - the executive felt that it was advisable to dispose of it if possible. In March, Mr. Kent of the Advisory Board met with the executive to consider the question of this house - an offer of \$110.00 in cash had been made to demolish same and fill in the basement. Several other phases were discussed but no conclusion was reached. However, at a regular Board meeting, after much discussion it was moved that they retain the house next door and

decorate it for a new tenant and that the present tenant be asked to vacate. The executive was to try to get payment of arrears of rent amounting to \$139.00. Rent was to be set at \$35.00.

Mrs. C. Johnston tendered her resignation as president in September of 1937. Mrs. Livingston reported for the Travellers' Aid Committee recommending that a Travellers' Aid Secretary be appointed, who would be resident in the building and take her turn at the desk. Later in the month it was moved that owing to the financial difficulties, for the time being the Travellers' Aid Department would be discontinued. Mrs. J. Drynan consented to take the presidency until the end of the year. Campaign objective this year was to be \$4,000.00 but the final report showed \$2,124.20 as being raised. In December the General Secretary, Miss Johnson, outlined a plan whereby the girls on small salary could rent a room for \$5.00 and work out eight hours per week at 25 cents per hour; rent from the higher-paid girls was \$7.00

In January, 1938 it was decided to write the City Council asking that a grant be given and a plan outlined whereby each board member was to enlist at least ten new members. Two maids and the cook were given a bonus of \$5.00 in appreciation of their services. It was agreed that the educational tax on meals for the maids be absorbed by the Association. In the spring a washer was purchased for \$75.00 and approval given to purchase an ironer. As the City Council decided to discontinue "Tag Days" it was agreed that the Board confer with other organizations about the reinstating of same as a means of adding to revenue. In April it was decided to dispense with the services of the dietitian; also that the garage

next door be sold for \$5.00 being the only offer received. It was moved that the City be approached for free water and in May a communication from the City notified the Board that the request for free water was refused. In July it was decided to dispose of the property next door to the highest bidder; the September minutes record that the offer of H. Smith for \$105.00 for removal of house next door be accepted on cash terms. In November, Justice Knowles resigned from the Advisory Board; membership campaign totalled \$1,833.00; a motion was approved for the affiliation of the Y with the Local Council of Women.

The financial statement presented in March, 1939 by Mrs. J. M. Manahan showed outstanding bills to be \$1,289.81. Mrs. Houston was appointed to arrange for a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of residence in the present building. A committee was to interview the Parks Board and solicit assistance in making a lawn. The April meeting closed with a special prayer for peace. The May minutes suggested that \$1.00 per bed be the charge for visitors during the Royal Visit.

During the summer of 1939 the Board mourned the loss of Mrs. Leask and Mrs. George Maybee -- Mrs. Maybee had been on the Board for 18 years. Mr. Maybee sent a letter to the Board in September stating that he was enclosing an envelope containing the ashes from the burning of the mortgage, which had been in the possession of the late Mrs. Maybee.

In January of 1940 the following recommendations were made to help the financial standing of the organization: (1) students to take care of own

rooms and give one night's service at telephone;
(2) no office service on Sunday between 1:30 to
4:30; (3) the iron to be kept in the office.

In the spring of 1940 an auxilliary group organized under the name of the Y.W.C.A. Guild with Mrs. Ron McIntyre as president. (This group is still very active today, 1954).

At a September meeting it was unanimously agreed that the Y.W.C.A. be a part of the Moose Jaw Federated War Services Fund. Cost of a proposed stoker for the building was \$1,038 00, to be handled in monthly payments. Later in November the Financial Committee reported that if the directors and advisory board could arrange to borrow from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 the installation of the stoker could be proceeded with. In December it was noted that the wives of the aircraftmen were taking advantage of the Y pool and gym. Mrs. Rankin of the War Services Committee asked that the Y.W.C.A. be responsible for providing a dance for a group of men from the Air School.

There is not much information available for the years 1941 to 1947 other than a few scrap books started and not completed -- minutes for this period are missing. However, the Y must have been functioning and rather busily, as a September, 1942 scrap-book clipping states that the Y.W.C.A. had 500 guests at "Open House". Apparently during the war years the Y.W.C.A. was a beehive of activity-- a dinner and dance were held, at which over ninety boys in uniform sat down to a delicious seven-course chicken dinner prepared and served by the members of the "White Collar Girls". All during the war

there was a "Fireside" evening for the boys and girls in uniform -- singsongs, readings, music and fellowship were enjoyed.

The 1946 membership campaign objective was \$5,000.00 In a newspaper article setting out details of this appeal it was noted expenditures during 1945 were \$27,000.00 In the annual report (from newspaper) it was noticed that the \$5,000.00 objective was not made and only \$2,872 67 was realized. Mrs. Wm. Kelly in giving financial report showed a turnover of \$30,000.00 for the year, yet the Y.W.C.A. operated at a net loss of \$3,000.00. Expenditures for 1946 in excess over revenue for the year were \$846.00. Mrs. J. Y. McGookin was re-elected president for 1947

Early in 1948 a money shortage was discussed--something must be done to raise money each month. Board members willingly accepted the responsibility of selling left-over Christmas cards; club rooms downstairs were rented; Mrs. Allan Rorison conducted a public speaking class for \$10 00 with good attendance and brought in a revenue of \$100.00; teas, home cooking and rummage sales, as well as a variety show, were some of the monthly money-raising projects The Membership Committee proposed that all clubs who make use of the Y building take out individual membership cards, as well as staff and residents. It was felt that a general membership drive might not be met with kind response because of the Community Chest. All members were asked to canvass for the Community Chest.

It was in the early part of 1948 that the Community Chest came under discussion and Miss McLeod asked to attend a meeting at the Chamber of

Commerce; a budget was prepared for presentation. At an executive meeting in July, 1948 the constitution of the Community Chest was read and discussed, following which Mrs. McDonald moved that the Y.W. agree to enter application to the Community Chest - this for \$10,920.00 -- which was later rejected (the amount to be reduced).

Considerable damage was done due to the roof leaking; prices were asked for a fifteen-year bonded roof. A letter from the Fire Commissioner ordered that a fire escape be built. The Board asked for an extension of time due to shortage of money. Salary increases were necessary due to the Minimum Wage Act. The oil burner purchase was abandoned for the time being. Board members were asked to stand behind the president 100 per cent and do all possible to get out of the present financial position.

In June, 1949 a recommendation was made to close the cafeteria and a special investigation was instituted to delve into the business principles of the cafeteria. The Cafeteria Committee held three meetings during July and made a recommendation to put resident girls on a straight room-and-board basis and close the cafeteria as such and to immediately inform the girls of this change. On October 3 the Advisory Board met with the executive of the Y Board. Mrs. J. W. McGaslin presided, others were Mrs. H. Banks, Mrs. A. R. Smith, Miss G. McLeod, Mr. Vickers, Mr. Little and Mr. Leroy Johnson. Suggestions were made, such as closing the dining room, blocking off part of the building for the winter, and it seemed that a mortgage was the logical answer in order to take care of the deficit arising from the fact that they did not have a campaign

the year they entered the Community Chest. The Community Chest had offered to assist in any way they could but the offer was dependent on the success of the Community Chest's annual campaign. Every hope was held out for the repayment of a mortgage. A mortgage had been the suggestion offered by the Budget Committee of the Community Chest and also the Finance Department of National Council. At this time no trace could be found of the Certificate of Title for the property and the seal - later found to be in the possession of Mrs. Leroy Johnson. In November of 1949 the General Secretary resigned. During the month of December it was reported that the teen-age dances seemed to get out of control and a motion was passed to discontinue them until after a new executive director was appointed. A letter from the Community Chest enclosed a cheque for \$1,500.00 being first payment on the 1950 Budget this by way of helping out in case the mortgage was not put through before the end of the year but not be a regular procedure on their part.

January 4, 1950 - mortgage turned down! The phone in the secretary's office was discontinued, post rates were charged in building, rental of club rooms downstairs was investigated and permission was given to close the swimming pool. Miss Rae Abernethy was the new General Secretary. Mrs. Bennett suggested that a Research Committee be set up to conduct a survey determining the social and recreational resources of the community and how they were meeting the needs of the young people and also to discuss the type of program that the Y should offer the youth of the district.

February, 1950 Finance Report showed a bad state of affairs and this committee recommended that the Community Chest be approached for an advance in money as based on needs and apply same on accounts outstanding for the longest period of time Mrs. H. Banks of the Finance Committee brought in the following recommendation, seconded by Mrs. C. Bennett - "In view of the financial picture and no possible hope of improvement in sight, the Board go on record as being in favour of closing the building if the Evaluation Committee brought in a recommendation to close." Mrs. Bennett reported for the Cafeteria Committee which brought in a number of new recommendations and which were approved by the Board.

In a plan of action set out in the March, 1950 minutes it was suggested that presentation of survey information in its tentative and unapproved form should be made to a Regular Board meeting; advisory board should be present; Local Council of Women, Staggett Club, Quota Club and Princess Club; as well as staff and boarders should be given information. Presentation should be made to a public meeting - this necessary since the Y.W.C.A. has no membership and since the building was erected and furnished by public subscription and in recent years has been supported in part by public donations. Mrs. Bennett was appointed to convene a Publicity Committee.

A special meeting was called for March 22, 1950 at which Mr. Turner of the Advisory Board was present to hear Survey Report by Mrs. Bennett. Eight days later another special meeting was held with the Advisory Board, those present being Mr. Irwin, Mrs. C. Bennett, Mr. Vickers, Mr. Turner, Mr. Haisman, Mrs. H. Banks, Mrs. M. Angel and Mrs. J. H. Roff. The Survey Report was discussed and

Mr. Haisman expressed the thought that the Y.M.C.A. should be approached to discuss the possibility of forming a Joint Y. At this meeting Mr. Vickers moved that the Advisory Board approve the decision of the Board of Directors that the Y.W.C.A. building be closed at the earliest possible date, but recommended that the Board continue their negotiations with the Y.M.C.A. Board, or such other bodies as might be interested in the joint operation of the building, and the matter of otherwise disposing of the building and contents be deferred pending developments. After a lengthy discussion at another special meeting in the Board Room in early April, Mrs. Bennett recommended that the Board go on record as approving the exploration of the possibility of merging with the Y.M.C.A. in Moose Jaw. At this same meeting Mrs. Bennett moved that the cafeteria be closed Thursday evening, April 6, and the staff who wished to prepare their own meals do so.

On April 12, \$3,000 00 was received from the Community Chest with which outstanding debts of \$3,937 41 were paid. Following a lengthy discussion at this time, it was moved that the building be completely closed April 30, 1950. At another meeting on the 24th concerning the joining of the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. discussion took place of the Survey Report when it was decided that it was very necessary that the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. continued to function as they owed a certain service to the community and it was concluded that we could not carry out a Y.W. and Y.M. program in either building.

A committee met with the Advisory Board in May when Mr. Irwin recommended that the Y.W.C.A. building be advertised for sale by sealed tenders with or without contents. It was suggested

that the Board look into the matter of renting a building and carrying out a temporary program until there was something more definite to work on. The building closed April 30 and a room was engaged from Mrs. Knox at 264 High Street West at \$15.00 a month to be held for transients and emergencies. In closing the cafeteria it was recommended that all foodstuffs not returnable be donated to the General Hospital and St. Anthony's home. From a full detailed report in May, 1950 it was evident that Mrs. Bennett had done a great deal of work on future plans for the program of the Y.W.C.A. The Y.M.C.A. offered space and facilities in the gym, pool and group activity and hobby room; also swimming pool and locker space. Toward the end of May discussion took place re consulting with the Mayor, Mr. Lewry, and Mr. Marquis concerning the possibilities of turning the building back to the community for community use - city officials were interested in the offer. The Advisory Board was consulted and a lengthy discussion took place on the best course to follow, Mr. Leroy Johnson recommended that "we try to dispose of the bedroom furniture, linen and blankets"; Mr. Turner moved that "we close the building, pending further developments".

The net proceeds of the auction sale of furniture, piano, etc., were \$2,361.95, which was considered good as most of the furniture had been in the building since 1912. At the regular meeting in August the minutes finish off with a suggestion that Mr. Barclay be paid the usual hourly wage for any repairs and decorating to be made on the rooms at the Y.M.C.A., and although there is no definite statement to say that the Y.W. moved into the Y.M. building it would so appear from the October minutes wherein it was moved that the Y.W.C.A. rooms be

renovated up to an expenditure of \$350.00.

At a meeting with the Advisory Board in November it was moved that the Y.W.C.A. building be sold for \$48,500.00 net through Nixon Agency.

At the annual meeting in January, 1951 Mr. Tozer gave a brief talk on the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. working together and so far it had proven very satisfactory. At a special meeting held in February, 1951 it was reported that the option held by the Masons on the Y.W.C.A. building was up on the 15th of February, and a motion was made that no further option be given the Masons, but that they be contacted and given first chance to buy if another would-be purchaser of the building should appear. Later in the month another special meeting was called by the president to discuss business relating to the Y.W.C.A. building, frozen drains, resulting leaks, etc. It was moved that Mr. Barclay's cheque be cancelled and that the city engineer be contacted for advice regarding roof, frozen drains and leak in the pipes with authority to do whatever he thought necessary. In March the possibility of the Y.W.C.A. building being salable or rentable to the Federal Government with the opening of the airport for training purposes was gone into. In June, 1951 Mrs. Knox was given notice that the Y.W. would not keep on the room in her home. At another special meeting in August Mrs. Lasby brought in a new deal as to the airforce wanting to rent the building and it was moved that "a letter be written to the Masons withdrawing our offer to sell the building for the present time." Then at a special meeting in December with the Advisory Committee, it was suggested as the opinion of the Advisory Board that the Y.W.C.A. accept the offer of the Masons - the building to be sold with the

furnishings, except what was needed.

The first note of interest in 1952 appeared to be the agreement to buy fully registered government bonds at the present rate. Miss E. Latham accepted the position of Executive Director in August

In April, 1953 it is noted that arrangement with the Y.M.C.A. for Mr. Peter's services be discontinued at the end of May and that a full-time qualified physical instructress be employed who would help the executive director; Miss Latham to attend a refresher course in Quebec; radio programs to commence in September in the form of panel discussions, conducted by Miss Latham with women from various groups in the city - this work to be on a paid basis; a bus trip in June to California was in the making. In September the question was raised as to obtaining a building for the Y.W.C.A. in the near future and a committee was appointed to investigate. During October a letter was received from the Y.M.C.A. Board stating they wished to increase the Y.W.'s rent by \$1,400.00, making the rent \$2,400.00 a year. It was pointed out to them that this could not be effective unless the Y.W. were notified before the budget was submitted to the Community Chest. The Lions Club volunteered to pay up to \$50.00 for any child not able to pay membership. Discussion took place at the October meeting as to a committee to be appointed to enquire about a building for the Y.W.C.A. or a new building to house both the Y.M. and Y.W. A committee was set up to meet with a similar committee from the Y.M. to discuss the rent and building - those appointed were Mrs. Lavington, Mrs. Vaudin, Mrs. Heal, Miss Latham and Mrs. Murison. A letter was received from the Y.M. in November concerning a toilet for girls and women

on the basement floor - \$1,040 00 A reply was sent saying that in view of the fact that a committee from each association was planning to meet to discuss the future of the two associations the Y.W. was not prepared to assume such an expenditure at that time.

In April, 1954 Mrs. R. Livingston reported that the Building Committee had met with the Y.M.C.A. when the Y.M. Chairman stated the Y.M. members agreed that a joint effort looked feasible providing sufficient accommodation was made available; it was recommended that the Board approve that we now proceed with the Y.M. toward the possible formation of a joint Y.M.-Y.W. building and organization

The increase in rent was to commence July 1 - \$1,800.00 per year - and no additional accommodation was requested. In September a letter was read from the Y.M. re amalgamation wherein they believed the youth of the community could be better served by amalgamation of the two organizations and that this take effect so that the new corporation might commence operations January 1, 1955 A motion was made by Mrs. Bennett that "The Board declare itself as being in favour of amalgamation with the Y.M.C.A. if it can be worked out to the satisfaction of both organizations". At this point Miss Latham, Executive Director, resigned. An Amalgamation Committee was then set up to work with the Building and Inter-Board Committee consisting of the number of sub-committees deemed feasible to bring back an unbiased report.

MOOSE JAW Y.W.C.A.

PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Mary Alexander	1907
Mrs. Bishop	1917
Mrs. G. A. Maybee	1918
Mrs. W. T. Cunningham	1930
Mrs. F. J. Lasby	1931
Mrs. J. H. Dryncon	1932
Mrs. C. F. Johnston	1937
Mrs. J. H. Dryncon	1938
Mrs. Houston	1940
Mrs. J. F. Lasby	1942
Miss K. Jamieson	1945
Mrs. J. Y. McCockin	1946
Mrs. J. W. McCaslin	1949
Mrs. H. Banks	1950
Mrs. C. W. Lasby	1951
Mrs. K. G. Murison	1952
Mrs. R. Livingston	1954

PRINCE ALBERT

Stay-at-home Camp.



Happy Campers.



Y. W. C. A. Prince Albert.

A HISTORY OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION IN PRINCE ALBERT

On November 6th, 1912, the ladies of this city decided that the time had come for the formation of a Y.W.C.A. Considering the fact that Prince Albert is situated in the north-central part of the province and was more or less isolated at that time, this was quite an undertaking as the Y.W.C.A. was not as well known in these parts as in England and Eastern Canada.

The chief need at this time was a home for girls for it was extremely difficult for girls to find board and room. Also, many young girls coming in from out-lying districts needed a place to stay where they might seek and gain counsel and help in getting employment.

Toward this end, an interested group of ladies each donated twenty dollars to form a basic fund and then began to make plans. They called a meeting at which were present Judge Doak, who spoke of the need for such an establishment in Prince Albert, Major Steele, R.C.N.W.M.P., J.S. Woodward, press representative, and Mr. Armitage, a real estate man. This meeting decided to try and get every denomination to join in this project.

The first board of directors were, Mrs. E.G. Shannon, Mrs. H.H. Itner, Mrs. F.E. Raymond, Mrs. J.A. Doyle, Mrs. A. Agnew, Mrs. N.W. Morton, Miss M. Moreland, Mrs. A.D. Dewdney, Mrs. D.W. Adam, Mrs. C. McDonald, Mrs. F.W. Wright, Mrs. G.E. Ellis, Miss Newham, Mrs. J.H. Lindsay, Mrs. J.B. Hackam, Mrs. C. Young, Mrs. C.B. Freemont, Mrs. J.I. Strong, Mrs. J.S. Chrisholm, and Mrs. R.J. Underwood.

The next step was to find and buy a house suitable for their purpose. They finally purchased a house from Mrs. S.J. Donaldson on Ninth Street East for \$25,000.00 in 1912. The ladies had raised \$2,000.00 and the city donated \$3,000.00. This \$5,000.00 was applied on the principal, the rest to be paid off at 7% per annum.

On December 12th, 1912, Mayor Morton formally opened the home speaking warmly of the praiseworthy effort toward the welfare of the city. The house was homelike, with cheerful, airy, clean rooms and the ladies were very proud of it. Miss Medhurst was the first matron.

While there is no record of membership, it seems probable that a large number of ladies were active at this time. Even so, the purchase of this house was a colossal effort on the part of this group of energetic women who had only the resources of a city with a population between seven and eight thousand people to draw upon.

Mrs. J.H. Lindsay was elected president, Mrs. Fred Wright, vice-president, Mrs. Colin Young, secretary, and Mrs. E.G. Shannon, treasurer.

The efforts of this group to raise needed finances deserves special mention at this time for they were novel, successful and must have involved an immense amount of work, time and energy. In most cases, their efforts to raise money also made a real contribution to the social life of the community.

One of the largest efforts was a Holiday Carnival, held in the rink. Some of the costumes seem to have been highly original. One lady, Helen McKay, wearing a tea cosy, impersonated, "Polly put the kettle on." A

man, Gene Agnew, appeared as a militant suffragette, armed with an axe and a motto across his back, "Vote for Women." Another lady appeared as billiards. This carnival was such a success, both financially and socially, that it was decided to make it an annual event with variations. The association cleared \$1,200.00 on this affair.

Another innovation was a mixed bonspiel. The ladies of the town had never played before and the gentlemen curlers were amazed and sometimes appalled at the enthusiasm, vim and vigor with which the ladies approached their games. Once indeed the president was startled into remonstrating with the ladies that,

"While the ladies have undoubtedly put new life into the bonspiel, everyone must realize they can't all win and musn't take their losses so seriously."

According to a "Herald" report of this event, a reporter suggested to one group who hadn't done so well that it might be due to the fact that they had all attended a dance or bridge party the night before.

"No, indeed," one lady replied emphatically. "They played just a lovely game and furthermore they made much more noise than the ladies on the other side, which shows they were interested and had the game in mind. Mr. Young, the Skip, however, would go down to the end and just slam his rocks and in nearly every case put in the opponent's rocks. It just looked as if he didn't care and the girls had to suffer through his indifference. I don't think he is as good as people say he is."

Bobby Young, whose wife was a Y.W.C.A. member, when interviewed replied,

"You can use the strongest words in the dictionary in referring to my work for the ladies. Go to it."

When they finished with a drubbing of seventeen to four, one lady curler remarked tearfully,

"It was all Bobby's fault. He's just horrid." While another remarked,

"The ladies of that team are horribly disappointed and they have every reason to be because they played just a sweet game."

However, it was generally considered that the bonspiel with its 37 rinks was a success and henceforth the ladies would curl. The association cleared \$172.00.

A book shower for the "Y" was held at this time resulting in donations of one hundred and forty books for the library. Many of these were fiction but there was also included some excellent travel and adventure stories.

At the end of the first year, membership totalled one hundred and thirty-three; of these, seventy-two were honorary. This had been a busy period. In one year, under the Travellers' Aid Branch four hundred and nineteen travellers had stayed at the "Y" one night or longer and six hundred women and girls travelling alone had been helped. This included taking care of children, taking suitcases to the baggage room, showing where the telephone and telegraph facilities were, helping old ladies arrange about their tickets and had even gone to the lunch room to buy a lunch for them to take on the train. One case, a lady

with eight children, a dog, a kitten, two canary birds, some chickens, dolls, parcels and teddy bears were cared for. They were enroute to a homestead, there was no train for two days and the lady had run out of money. She and her family were given money to see them safely home and put on the proper train. Many people came to the 'Y' to find news of their friends. Teachers met Trustees, mothers seeking children, all were helped. Among the foreign girls arriving were cases where due to ignorance they had sent a letter the same day they had started themselves for this country. Often their money would barely cover the price of their ticket. These girls were met, taken to the home and then sent on their way with sufficient funds for their needs. Many of the young women staying at the 'Y' did so at a very low rate, some worked for their board, others paid when able when they found work. This was the place out of town mothers came to stay when they came to see a dentist or doctor.

Soon the "Y" was acting in the capacity of an employment bureau. People needing help left word here and girls wanting work did the same. The records show that in one instance a widow woman and her child were kept at the home for several weeks free of charge until she could get work. Another case is that of a penniless mother with two small children. Finally she found work but could only take one child, whereupon the "Y" kept and looked after the other.

The work of the matron seems at this time to have been all inclusive. She met every train in the service of the Travellers' Aid in addition to her regular duties. About one hundred and forty-nine girls were met the first year and this was only the first step toward finding them employment, friends and other services important to a lonely young girl's welfare.

At this time, the house account balanced itself, but mainly through the superhuman efforts of the matron. Finally she became ill from overwork, and the board, unwilling to lose her valuable services, gave her two months' holiday to recuperate.

Excerpts taken from a letter from a matron, written during these early years will show just what these ladies accomplished. Truly, had their hearts not been in their work, they could never have done it. The letter is from a Mrs. L. Swanson, who was house-keeper during 1919. "I find that I need a little help. We are twenty in all steady, and when we have transients, which is often, there are as many as thirty. I find that when I have the baking, cooking, help with the washings and all the other duties that fall to my lot, that it is impossible for any one woman to do it. The furnace alone is a man's job and if it were not for the help of Mr. Swanson (her husband) I just could never do it myself. The big washings that Jessie and I do every day are a fright. When it is only a rush for a few days, I do not mind, but these are quite steady. The girl I have to help me is not strong and when she has too much to do, her strength gives out. Her table work and trays are heavy as well as the upstairs work. She is a dear little girl, a most willing and honest worker and the best I have had in two and a half years I have been here. I have been off duty myself for a week, through overwork the doctor tells me. Miss Gilcrest (secretary) and Jessie did my work between them and did it real well. I might add Miss Gilcrest is the essence of kindness and is always ready and willing when help is needed. I have not been able to get off duty for one half hour since Xmas (2 months). I am here from six-thirty am to seven-thirty pm and I feel I can't go much longer. I therefore ask for some help. She must be the real thing, otherwise I won't be bothered with her. Either

that or grant me seven dollars more per month and I will find my own help. I cannot ask Jessie to work so hard another month. Respectfully yours."

It is interesting to note in the minutes that Mr. Swanson, spoken of in the letter, had also donated a large roast of moose to the larder and previous to Xmas had treated the whole house to an oyster stew.

The board began at this time to find itself in financial difficulties and unable to meet the payments of the house. The City Council was approached for a grant and a by-law was submitted to the city for a grant of \$3,000.00. Apparently this did not pass. Prince Albert was in the middle of a depression and while the association seems to have had both the esteem and co-operation of the city in their work, the money just was not forthcoming.

During the First World War years, the work of the "Y" increased. Weeks of Prayer were held, social Sunday evening song services too, after which tea and cake were served and enjoyed immensely by the boys in khaki who came time after time. Parties were given by the house girls for the soldiers. The house was open to service boys as a reading room or a place to meet their friends. The house girls were interested in Red Cross and charity work.

One instance of the "Y's" work at this time was the case of four orphan children. They were the children of Private Joseph A. Lee who died in service. The children's mother had died soon after Mr. Lee enlisted. The children were kept at the "Y" until arrangements in conjunction with a local patriotic fund were able to be made to send the youngsters to relatives in England. They were finally sent on their way, warmly clad and

with well filled food hampers and spending money. They were met at Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and St. John's and finally at Liverpool by members of the "Y".

In 1915, in addition to all other work, records show the matron took care of two children while their mother was in the hospital. One was eight years old, the other a baby of fifteen months. They stayed for five weeks and the youngsters were also outfitted with clothing.

Five soldiers were boarded for four days at one time and another time they had forty soldiers coming in for every meal for ten days.

Girl immigrants needing lessons in English were provided with the same through members who spoke the girl's native tongue.

Considerable work was done at this period in teaching housework to domestic workers in an endeavour to place domestic work on a higher level and thus gain for the girls better pay and working conditions.

During these years many normal students stayed at the "Y" and after they left often treats of cakes, bulk food from the pleased parents were sent to the "Y", as well as pleasant letters of appreciation which must have done much to lighten the burden the matron carried.

Membership during these first World War years reached a high peak. In 1915 there were four hundred and one members, of these there were two hundred and one Honorary Members.

During the flu epidemic many of the boarders,

who were teachers, went out and acted as nurses to the sick. The matron's report for this period shows that she served these girls their meals in bed when they rested in order to conserve their strength and health. This was in addition to caring for the sick in her house and all the additional duties of that time.

During one year in this period, the 'Y' home had 900 guests. Finances were still a headache and there was no help forthcoming from the city. At this time the 'Y' was doing considerable work with soldiers' wives who, because allowances were not coming through and other such troubles, needed help and advice. Several reports appear during this period of girls running away from home. These were contacted, helped and advised.

One of the carnivals held during this period to make money is worthy of special mention here. It was a Holiday Carnival and advertised a real, live baby for sale.

Tickets were punched by young women dressed in the uniform of the R.C.N.W.M.P. The booths represented an unusual amount of work. They included an April Fool booth which sold souvenirs, an Arbor Day booth which displayed lovely cut flowers and potted plants for sale, a Valentine Booth which sold homemade candy, Wedding Booth which sold the daintiest lingerie, a New Year's Booth which featured the real live baby which was a pedigreed, thoroughbred bulldog. A St. Patrick's Booth sold linens and crochet work, while a Dominion Day Booth decorated with pictures of Their Majesties and flags under which the ladies sold delectable pancakes and maple syrup. Included in this deal was a prize of a \$75.00 Norwegian counterpane with the purchase of a lucky ticket to the Orpheum Theatre. The tickets to the show cost fifteen cents, the entrance

fee to the carnival was twenty-five cents and the ladies cleared \$1,200.00.

Other money making schemes were an Allied Carnival, a Jester's Tea, where the bill of fare took the form of conundrums, and an Ice Cream Social. Also included were ordinary teas, bake sales and apron sales.

During this time the association kept up its end creditably with the National Head Office and worked side by side in this effort with the larger eastern cities.

The "Y" struck out again with a new innovation - a summer camp at Ladder Lake, Big River, for young women. The purpose of this camp was to enable young women to enjoy an outing at a moderate cost without having to go too far from home. The rates were easy and reduced fares available to those needing them. Four tents were borrowed from the R.C.N.W.M.P., and various other equipment was provided by the ladies. Thirteen girls attended this camp the first year. This project had the wholehearted support of the city, who hoped it might mark the beginning of a tourist trade for P.A.

A high school Y.W.C.A. Club was formed during this period and seems to have been quite active.

A play called "Our Rice Pudding" was produced by the "Y". It was an outstanding success as a social event.

Even so, the ladies were not making enough money at this time to take care of the many services as well as the \$1,400.00 yearly in interest to be paid besides what could be applied on the principal. They

appealed to the city for \$200.00 or some means by which they could raise this amount. It was pointed out to the city that in one case alone the fact that the "Y" was looking after any number of children at various times had relieved the city of the necessity of establishing a Children's Shelter. Council assured "Y" members they were most appreciative of the services rendered the city but in view of their financial situation were quite unable to give a cash appropriation. They did, however, give the association a Tag Day.

During these war years, the heavy burden of debt had been carried by the few who had worked hard to keep the association going. They had never been able to earn sufficient to pay off the principal sum. The result was that in July, 1919, the association was in arrears in its payments. They had already paid eight thousand dollars on the principal and five thousand eight hundred and forty-five dollars on the interest, and an extra \$300.00 interest while dickering with Mrs. Donaldson. Altogether they had paid on the original price of \$25,000.00 the sum of \$14,143.00. They were unable to make their payments; the owner threatened foreclosure, and after several months the association had no other alternative but to return the property to Mrs. Donaldson and look for another place. It was a heartbreaking business.

Since, after a period of some months' search, the ladies were unable to find a suitable place, they disbanded. The secretary-treasurer, Mrs. M. Hamilton, was given authority to issue and sign cheques in trust for the "Y" and attend to all correspondence. She also had the power to call either general or executive meetings should the need arise.

The ladies who made these final arrangements

were Mrs. M. McArthur, Mrs. Verdy Bain, Mrs. J.A. Goodfellow, Mrs. M. Davies, Mrs. R. Hamilton and Mrs. G. Sherwood.

But the need for a home for girls and its attendant services was still in great need in this city. A Mrs. F.W. Wright, a Y.W.C.A. member, opened her home to girl transients but couldn't begin to cope with the demand.

Two years after the association had disbanded, in September, 1922, the Kiwanis approached the Board and asked that they consider establishing a home for young girls since the need was so great. They would pay the rent on a suitable house for one year to further this cause. A general meeting voted in favor of re-opening.

A formal opening was held in the Stanley House, October 3, 1923. The Kiwanis paid fifty dollars a month rent as per their agreement.

The directors appointed to carry on were Mrs. C. McDonald, Mrs. M. McArthur, Mrs. F. Wright, Mrs. B.L. Clements, Mrs. T.E. Baker, Mrs. P.D. Walker, Mrs. G.H. Carr, Mrs. J.W. Aikins, Mrs. F.D. Culp, Mrs. J.H. Banion, Mrs. L.S. Phillips, Mrs. H. Knox, Mrs. C. Webb, and the Misses H. McKay and Gregor.

The year began with enthusiasm and one hundred members. The housekeeper was paid thirty dollars a month during this period and they had ten boarders and 222 transients. They established a Travellers' Aid once more.

This period between the two world wars was a

busy one for the "Y". An average of four girls were kept continuously for nothing, others were boarded at a reduced rate, while others performed services for their room and board. Approximately 2,000 trains were met yearly.

The members made money by the usual means, teas, bazaars, etc., and most years the city made grants ranging from \$200.00 to \$900.00. Farmers donated vegetables, fruits and meat. For instance, a Mr. C. Morton, a farmer, donated nineteen sacks of potatoes and four lads went out and gathered them. The house mother (Mrs. C. Morrow) at one time, in order to help out on house expenses, sold cinnamon rolls every Friday. Members were generous in food and other gifts.

In 1929, we find a list of supplies made for the "Y" which is interesting in the light of today's prices. The list shows one bolt of sheeting, one half dozen bath towels, one dozen linen towels, ten yards of linen towelling, a dozen serviettes, three bedspreads, seven yards of roller towelling, tea plates and two blinds. The total cost was \$45.81.

These were the years of depression. In one year, 1934, 22 girls were found employment, 61 kept free of charge from one night to one month, 70 at reduced rates, and 40 assisted in various ways. No one who applied for help was turned away.

About this time a Miss Hobrecher talked to the members about the new code in which a 69 hour week was being asked for women. Classes were formed for the girls to study and discuss women's wages and the 69 hour week. Training in housework was again made available at this time.

The association was disappointed in the house they were living in; it was cold, too far out, and generally unsatisfactory. In 1933 they had a chance to rent the house they now occupy and later, to buy it. The house cost five thousand dollars and it was paid at a rate of fifty dollars a month.

The war years of 1940 to 1945 increased the work of the association considerably. In addition to their regular projects, they now played a full part in Prince Albert's war effort. Surveys were made of the city for living quarters for service men's families. In one year, 74 families were placed in suitable quarters.

The girls were encouraged to do Red Cross Work and meetings were held at the "Y". Teas and gatherings were held for wives of servicemen and entertainment provided for girls in barracks. Places where C.W.A.C.'s were welcome for Sunday dinner and weekends were located. For some reason, it was always easier to find places for the soldiers to spend their leisure time than for the women employed in the services. Women's clubs met at the "Y".

The year 1942 was a gala year for the association. They celebrated a clear title to their house and adjoining lot by a dinner at the Empress Hotel at which were present Mayor Brock and his wife, advisory board and executive.

Membership stayed up well during these years. A drive was instituted every year and membership averaged 78, including Honorary Members.

The house matron's report for these years show the house activities brisk. In one year, 900 transients

were served, among these were maternities, others were refugees from Europe. There were twelve regular boarders and by 1944, 15,000 meals were served in one year and 900 telephone calls made for service personnel.

The "Y" living room was used for meetings of the St. John Ambulance and Home Nursing Classes at the request of the city.

Knitting and sewing classes were held during this period and were very well attended. Fifty girls enrolled for the dressmaking and millinery course, and the Singer Sewing Machine Company loaned machines for the classes. In one year sixty-three girls registered for vocational training. Mothers' meetings held at this time did not prove too successful.

In addition to other duties, the matron found places for girls to work for their room and board while attending business college and collegiate. She also provided supervision for club organizations for teen-age and young adult girls. Records show that in addition to all this, 240 quarts of fruit and vegetables were canned in one month. Efforts were made to locate rooms for transients when the "Y" was full.

The association also contributed regularly to the World Service Department and played its part in restoration work. A donation for \$200.00 was sent the Mrs. Winston Churchill Fund, \$200.00 to the British Y.W.C.A. Fund yearly. A member, Mrs. Jean Mitchell, was appointed to the War Services Committee.

With the end of World War II, the "Y" here entered a new phase. Miss Helen Ramsay, who had

considerable experience in the east, became Executive Director, a new office in the Prince Albert Organization, at a salary of \$1,800.00, in 1947. She was in charge of a special program for young women and young adults. The program included such activities as hobby and craft clubs, music appreciation and drama groups, all of which were enthusiastically attended. The craft clubs enrolled 125 members in one year.

A new innovation was a weekly Saturday morning story hour for children. This proved to be very popular and was well attended. Eight hundred children enjoyed this story hour in one year.

Supervised dances were held at the "Y" for young people.

Assistance was given the Business Girls' Club with its program.

Space does not permit mention of the many people whose names, appearing constantly through the minutes of this organization, showed their hard working interest. However, at this point, two people come to mind.

Major J. Lindsay became legal advisor to the "Y" at its inception and worked with the organization throughout the years except for a period during World War I when he was overseas. Though his name no longer appears on the board of advisors, he was most helpful with information for this article. He is typical of the men who have given of their advice and help throughout the years.

We should like to mention also Mrs. C. McKeen who represents those quiet workers who are always

ready to help in a pinch. When the association moved into the present house, Mrs. McKeen put in a garden for the use of the house and looked after it. She has done this diligently through the years. All the rummage sales have been under her direction and nothing appeared on her racks for sale until they were cleaned, pressed and mended. When a substitute was needed for house mother, Mrs. McKeen took over, and when the house mother needed special help, Mrs. McKeen was there. In saluting Mrs. McKeen, we do so also to the many other members who perform their duties so tirelessly and faithfully.

Other activities undertaken during this period included Folk Dancing, Copper Tooling and Leather Craft.

"Stay at Home Camps" were instituted during these first years after the war. Eighty youngsters who were unable to get away from home were given a taste of camp life. Camping activities were carried out throughout the day and the youngsters were returned home to sleep. Kiwanis and Rotary members provided transportation and the local business men donated free ice cream and treats.

Women handicapped by ill health or physical disability and unable to fill a full time job found outlet for their energies by learning to make plaster figures for which a market was found.

But in 1950 Miss Ramsay tendered her resignation as secretary, as the association was unable to continue to pay her salary.

During the last three years, there has been a general growth of interest and goodwill toward the "Y"

here. In order to gain a representative group of directors, every denomination was asked to send two of their members to act with the "Y". The response was most gratifying and the ladies have proven interested and helpful members.

Several visits have been made here from the National Office in Toronto and forthcoming advice has proven helpful and stimulating. Delegates have been sent to the conventions and annual meetings and they too have added to the general stimulus.

Out of all this interest grew the desire to improve the building in which the "Y" is located. A new gas range, partly financed by a memorandum of the late president, Mrs. W.R. Francis, replaced the old coal and wood stove on which the house mother was preparing 18,436 meals a year. A new oil burner and water heater relieved the house mother of the never-ending job of stoking the coal furnace. A frigidaire was purchased as well as a rug for the living room. A general house decorating program was carried out and this included new linoleum in several rooms, wall paper, curtains, new blinds, bedspreads and linens. Some rooms were completely renovated.

A recent innovation was a course in baby sitting at which forty girls received instruction. The Regional Health Services assisted with the classes and a registry was set up.

Oil painting classes were given under Bea Barnett.

A choral group was organized under the leadership of Mrs. R. Grierson.

A class for the blind was set up, giving handi-

craft instruction.

Help has been given to the Blood Donor clinics.

The Friendship Club and the Blind have free use of the "Y" living room for their meetings. Service Girls' Clubs use the living room and kitchen for their meetings at a cost of five dollars a meeting.

The living room is available to any traveller who wishes to rest between trains or while shopping, and many women from outlying points find this a great convenience.

The Travellers' Aid met 950 people in one year and assisted over 700 of them. Their duties are many and varied. While there aren't so many girls travelling who need help, yet there are women and girls from foreign countries who need advice, help about trains and a place to stay. Children are met upon request. One case typical and worthy of mention took place recently. The Travellers' Aid, Mrs. C. Dobson, met a mid-day train. She noticed two small children who got off the train and seemed uncertain. The little girl was crying. When the Aid saw that no one was there to meet them, she spoke to them and learned they had come from a farm down the line and expected their grandparents to meet them. She waited with the youngsters for a while, then telling the ticket agent where she was going, took the two small children and gave them dinner and then brought them back to the station. Leaving the youngsters in the care of the station agent for a short time, she then went to the bus depot when a bus was expected in. She noticed an old couple sitting in a car and asked them if they were looking for someone. They were looking for two small children whom they expected on the noon bus. They were reunited with the children with many grateful thanks. Not

an outstanding experience perhaps, but a heartwarming one wherein two small children found a trip an exciting adventure instead of a frightening experience.

Help and expressions of appreciation have come the way of Prince Albert "Y". The Friendship Club which has been permitted to meet free of charge in the "Y", showed its appreciation by sponsoring a shower for the house. It included towels, cups and saucers, spoons, canned goods and groceries.

The press and the local radio station, C.K.B.I. have been most co-operative with "Y" projects.

The city has made a yearly grant of \$650.00 toward the Travellers' Aid and the "Stay at Home Camp".

The duties of the house mother are still diverse. Mrs. R. McColl, the present house mother, joined this organization in 1946. Like her predecessors, she showed her deep interest in providing a home for girls. Though in her first years boarders ran at a peak of 19, and never less than 14, Mrs. McColl, in order to help out the house finances, served dinners to women's club organizations. There would usually be an average of fifteen women and Mrs. McColl charged 75¢ a plate. When all the boarders went home for Christmas, Mrs. McColl served Christmas dinner to Old Age Pensioners and gave them a Christmas party. Another year, she served a lovely Christmas dinner with gifts for under-privileged children.

Her duties are diverse. She counsels and helps the boarders who are mainly business and school girls, and tries to provide a cheerful, friendly home for the girls. She is always willing to help visitors and transients with her time and advice. The girls are

allowed to use the living room for their own entertainment and have the full run of the house.

In spite of the fact that times have been easier generally in the last years, still there are plenty of cases where a helpful hand is needed. For instance, a young girl taking a business course here and living with her grandmother, was suddenly left homeless when the grandmother left for the Coast. This girl was kept free of charge until such time as she found other satisfactory accommodation - a period of three months. She finished her course, found work, and has since reimbursed the "Y".

No one is ever turned away. Mrs. McColl keeps in constant touch with the employment agency and those without funds are helped contact the Welfare Agency which has relieved the "Y" of that type of help.

There are now from ten to twelve regular boarders with an average of 35 transients a month. Living rates are well below the usual. Board and sharing room are forty-five dollars a month. Transients pay a dollar and a half a night. Meals are available in the dining room at reasonable prices. It costs approximately today, ten thousand dollars yearly to run the establishment.

During the history of the "Y" here, the association has struck out with many innovations throughout the years; forward thinking and enterprising, some of them were results of repeated contacts with the head office, but it took enterprise and effort in many cases to put these ideas across. As other organizations have assumed some of the responsibilities, the "Y" has taken on others. During their history, they added considerably during their first years to the social life of the

community; during the war years, their war efforts were outstanding, and since then a great deal has been done toward the cultural design here. Many women have had their lives enriched and broadened by contact with the "Y" and its activities.

Nor has the ideal, "Sympathy, Understanding and Material Help," ever failed in dealing with the young girls and women who have stayed temporarily or lived at the "Y". Too much cannot be said regarding the matrons who, during the years, have served here. Too often they have been overworked, the salary has been secondary, their main desire to maintain a Christian, homelike atmosphere for girls. Clearly they have succeeded.

Today, in 1955, the association is in good financial standing. Officers are: Mrs. R. Gooding, who is in her third year as president, Mrs. R.A. Clark, third year as first vice; Mrs. F. Kisbey, second vice; Mrs. E.E. Wright, third vice president. Mrs. D.B. Rogers has been treasurer for the last five years. Mrs. F.G. Elcombe, the new secretary, succeeds Mrs. G. Jordan.

There are to date fifty members. (We are going out on a membership drive.)

Directors at this time are: Mrs. N. Acorn, Mrs. E. Atkinson, Mrs. C. Brown, Mrs. A. Burgess, Mrs. A.O. Bates, Mrs. R.A. Clark, Miss E. Chivers, Mrs. C. Christenson, Mrs. R. Gooding, Miss M. Kee, Mrs. F. Elcombe, Mrs. W. Kernaghan, Mrs. F. Kisbey, Mrs. Quarstrom, Mrs. M. Simpson, Mrs. S. Swenson, Mrs. D.B. Rogers, Mrs. E.E. Wright, Mrs. A.G. Rawlinson and Mrs. E. McClure.

Perhaps the efforts of the members and the matron can here be summed up in a quotation taken from one of the earlier matrons who said earnestly that she hoped to make of the Prince Albert Young Women's Christian Association a House of Friendship. A small part in the larger picture of the Dominion Command, but willing and warm heartedly trying to live up to the saying of one of the National Presidents who said,

"As long as there are women and girls, there will be a place for a Young Women's Christian Association in your community."

This information was obtained from minute books, scrap books, various visits with women who have been on the Young Women's Christian Association board, and Major J.H. Lindsay.

Written by Celia Warburton and Charlotte Gooding.

PRINCE ALBERT Y.W.C.A.

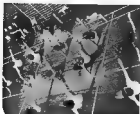
PRESIDENTS

Miss E. Newnham	1911
Mrs. Verdy Bain	1916
Mrs. Marie Webb	1920
Mrs. L. P. Phillips	1924
Mrs. Myrtle Eede	1927
Mrs. R. A. Miller	1929
Mrs. L. P. Phillips	1930
Mrs. R. A. Miller	1931
Mrs. E. K. Holmes	1934
Mrs. Geo Munro	1936
Mrs. R. Robertson	1942
Mrs. Helen Rose	1943
Mrs. J. Jonason	1945
Mrs. G. H. Halgeson	1946
Mrs. R. L. Jones	1947
Mrs. W R Francis	1949
Mrs. R. N. Gooding	1951

REGINA



Regina Y. W. C. A. First Occupied March 1912.
Three Months Later - The Cyclone.



Rhythm Personified.

Poise in the Pool.



HISTORY
of the
YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
Regina, Saskatchewan.

In Retrospect

The Early Years

"It is a blessed privilege to have a part in the beginning of things, and we of the great west are specially favored in that regard." Those were the opening words of the report presented by Mrs. George Young at the laying of the corner stone of the Y.W.C.A. building in Regina.

On that afternoon of October 10, 1911 the skies were sunnier than they had been for days in Regina. Crowds gathered inside and in front of the Y.W.C.A. to witness the ceremony of the laying of the corner stone; the men working on the building stopped to watch and listen attentively from their places on the steel beam of the second story. After Mr W. E. Mason had opened the ceremony, the Baptist Male Quartette led in the rousing singing of "How Firm a Foundation". Addressees were given by His Honour Lieutenant-Governor Brown, Mayor McAra, Mr. Baker, a member of the British House of Commons, the Rev. Murdoch McKinnon, and Mr. James Balfour, President of the Y.M.C.A.

Amongst the guests were Miss Stevenson, World Secretary, and Miss Little, Dominion Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. The moment when Mrs. McKay Omand tested the corner stone and declared it to be well and truly laid was a deeply significant one to those two women who saw the Regina Association as part of a fast growing national and international movement. Four years before Miss Little had come to the prairies in answer to persistent letters from Brandon, Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton "emphasizing the need of inaugurating a work for young women." At that time meetings had been held in Regina and committees had been appointed but the work had not gone ahead as a suitable house had not been available. Now, within the short space of eighteen months, the Association had been organized, and a fine new building, complete with residence and cafeteria, club rooms and gymnasium, was on its way.

That building was in part the fulfillment of the dreams, the work and prayers of a group of women who laid the foundation, not only of the Y.W.C.A. in Regina but of other community services. They were women of vision who saw a building as just one means of helping to meet the needs of the girls and women of their day, and of the years to come. They were aware above all that creative Christian leadership was essential. Early in the course of their community work they had demonstrated their own great capacity for leadership, and for sharing together the responsibilities of a pioneer association.

In those days, women were just beginning to find their place in business and industry. It was

estimated in 1910 that 800 girls were at work in the City of Regina. They were arriving daily from the eastern provinces and from the British Isles, some as members of families, many alone - all seeking a new way of life. Regina could not begin to accommodate the influx of people; hotel accommodation was limited, eating places few. For a woman in particular, problems were doubly difficult. If she wished to be considered respectable, she dared not appear in a hotel dining room or in a cafe without escort or chaperon. The Young Men's Christian Association had been established in Regina in 1890. Was there not just as great a need, if not greater, among young women? Did the answer to that need not lie in the Y.W.C.A. movement that had begun in England in 1855, a movement that had spread to the cities of Eastern Canada and the West Coast?

Regina's Council of Women took action. Letters were exchanged with the Y.W.C.A. Dominion Council staff at Toronto. Finally in March 14, 1910, the Local Council of Women held a meeting under the chairmanship of Mrs. Rothwell, in the Y. M. C. A. auditorium for the purpose "of considering the advisability of organizing a Young Women's Christian Association in Regina."

The gathering was a large and enthusiastic one. Miss Lane, the visiting secretary of the Dominion Council of the Y.W.C.A. gave an address on all phases of the work "which would develop girls, body, mind, and soul" and Mr. Clark, the Y.M.C.A. Secretary, spoke of the advantage of Christian Association work. That afternoon the decision was reached to organize a Y.W.C.A. in Regina. Mrs. McKay Omand was named provisional chairman, and the

Local Council Executive, Miss Lane and Mrs. Omand were instructed to appoint the provisional executive. That night this group met at the home of Mrs. Rothwell to set up committees.

On April 5, 1910, another public meeting was held in the Y.M.C.A. to receive the reports of the provisional committees. The Membership Committee had received by that date, the promise of 199 members; the House Committee had found that space would be available in the old Leader Block; the Finance Committee had estimated operating costs in the neighborhood of \$2,234.00 and funds available at \$375.00; the Constitution Committee had drafted a proposed constitution based on recommendations from the Dominion Council, providing for a Board of Management of forty-two ladies, and Advisory Board of six gentlemen. The Nominating Committee brought in the names of forty-two ladies who were immediately elected.

The next day the Board of Directors of the Y.W.C.A. met for their first meeting and elected the following officers:

Honorary President	- Mrs. Walter Scott
President	- Mrs. McKay Omand
1st Vice-President	- Mrs. J. W. Smith
2nd Vice-President	- Mrs. D. S. McCannel
3rd Vice-President	- Mrs. G. C. Hill
4th Vice-President	- Mrs. J. F. Bryant
Recording Secretary	- Mrs. G. H. Young
Corresponding Secretary	- Mrs. Hector Lang
Treasurer	- Mrs. L. J. Palmatier

In addition, it was decided that the provisional House Committee made up of Mesdames W. Rothwell, Adam Ross, J. H. Lamont, G. W. Henry, L. J. Palmetier and Neil McCannel be re-appointed as permanent House Committee with the additions of Mesdames Alex Ross, D. S. McCannel, B. Carter and W. E. Moore.

Committees were then appointed:

Finance - Mesdames W. A. Thomson, J. A. Allan, F. J. Reynolds, W. Scott, G. W. Brown, J. W. Smith, F. R. Sebolt, A. D. Wright and G. Forsyth.

Educational - Miss E. D. Cathro, Mesdames J. A. Reid, J. H. Oliver, J. F. Bryant, T. D. Brown, A. H. Tasker and J. H. Lamont.

Social - Mesdames J. R. Peverett, G. C. Hill, G. F. Wilson, W. H. Gee, P. Gordon, A. C. Hunt, D. H. Gillespie, J. A. Wright and W. P. Wells.

Religious - Mesdames J. H. Oliver, W. McKay Omand, Henry, Ayre, G. Miller, S. B. Sanders and G. H. Young.

Membership - Mesdames Crosswell, Munroe, Franks, Kerr, W. P. Wells and Misses Cameron, Henderson, McFarlane, Webster and Hamilton.

Messrs. H. D. Stevens, W. E. Mason, F. N. Darke, J. A. Allan, W. T. Mollard, J. H. H. Young and Chief Justice Wetmore were named to the Advisory Board.

Plans were made to lease the old Leader Block for two years on the terms which the owners had made with the provisional House Committee--the owners to do all outside repairs, to give the building rent free

for five months, and for \$100 a month for the balance of the time.

Mrs. Omand, Mrs. Young and Mrs. Palmetier were delegated to interview the city authorities regarding a site for the Y. W. C. A.

Steps were taken to look for a General Secretary, and Mrs. Omand, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Lang authorized to interview persons available as cook and matron.

With despatch equalling that with which their first meeting was conducted, Board members set about preparing for the opening of a cafeteria and restroom in the Leader Block on May 25, 1910. Furnishings and repair committees were formed. Members took their turns in washing windows and walls, scrubbing floors, painting and struggling with the stains of printer's ink. In between times funds were raised by sponsoring an entertainment and canvassing for memberships amongst women of fifteen and over, of good moral character. Honorary memberships at \$5 and \$25 were available for gentlemen.

Miss Moffat was engaged for a period of three months as matron at a salary of \$50 a month. In June 1910, Miss Marjorie A. Morton came from the Winnipeg Association to Regina as General Secretary, in which capacity she remained until 1922. Throughout these years, Miss Morton, with her astute business sense, her administrative ability, and leadership, was to be a tower of strength.

The cafeteria at 1769 Hamilton Street became a haven for the young employed woman in Regina. After lunch she could spend the balance of her noon hour sitting primly in the restroom doing fancy work for her hope chest under the observing but kindly eye of the General Secretary, or if the block she lived in did not have a bath, she could get one at the Y. W. C. A. for 10¢ provided that there was enough hot water left after the supper dishes were done.

Programme grew apace. A young women's auxiliary was organized; rooms were rented in Dr. Smith's Block at \$35 per month for the carrying on of the educational work. Classes were opened in literature, physical science, domestic science, dressmaking, Bible study, first aid, current events, modern languages, and in October an institute was held for volunteer workers, under the direction of the visiting Y. W. C. A. secretaries, Miss Stevenson and Miss Little. Mr. Burton of the Y. M. C. A. was the first physical instructor. Meantime, two meals a day were served in the cafeteria, lunch and supper. Volunteers from the Board put up fruit for the cafeteria and tied comforters for the beds of overnight guests. A Y. W. C. A. sign was hung in the railway depot to acquaint women travellers with the services available.

Special Board meetings became the order of the day as programme outgrew the space provided, and building plans progressed. Miss Morton secured the plans of several eastern Y. W. C. A.'s and at the request of the Board, spoke with the girls in activities as to their ideas on the location of the new building. Mesdames Omand, J. W. Smith and Hannon were appointed trustees of the real property of the Association.

Sites were looked at with an eye to the future development of the community. None seemed to be the answer. Prayers were offered for help in making the right decision. Then the site next to the Metropolitan Church became available and the decision was made to erect a building costing not less than \$50,000.

The community rallied behind the campaign for funds. Sermons were preached from pulpits on Sunday, March 12th, on the work and support of the Y. W. C. A. The general canvass started on Monday, March 13th and closed Saturday, March 18th. The citizens of Regina backed the project wholeheartedly by voting in favor of a city grant of \$15,000 to the Y. W. C. A. building fund.

The services of Mr. James H. Pustia as architect were secured and the tender of Messrs. Smith Brothers and Wilson accepted. Meeting upon meeting followed and consultations with the architect and Advisory Board on specifications and plans. Mrs. Pollock was engaged as housekeeper for the new building and Board members were absorbed in the purchase of sheets, blankets, bedroom and dining room furniture. A newspaper item at this time read--"Intending contributors kindly donate money and not articles so uniformity of furnishings may be secured."

The secretary's office was furnished by Mrs. Aleck Clarke; the library by Mrs. T. B. Patton; the private parlor by Mrs. F. N. Darke; the resident parlor largely by the International Harvester Company; pictures by the Bible Study Club; a clock by the Sunshine Club, a group of girls who had come from the old land; and silverware for the cafeteria by A. L.

Wheatley. The building was ready for occupancy by March 1912, with a term of six months for the residence girls

In November 1910 the question of employing a Travellers' Aid Secretary had come to the fore. Mesdames Wright, McCannell, Forsyth and Peverett were appointed to represent the churches and arrange for financial support of the "agent". On March 1, 1911, Miss E. Henry was placed in charge of Travellers' Aid work at the station and made assistant to Miss Morton. Women and children were brought from the station to wait for their train, or to stay overnight at the Y.W.C.A. An old report written at this time reads, "The necessity of this work at the station can only be realized after hearing the many pathetic stories of those who have failed to meet their friends---and sometimes of the one who has been saved from a reckless downward step."

On June 30, 1912, the cyclone struck Regina, leaving in its wake a stunned city, death and destruction. The roof of the new building was ripped off and the south wall and north walls partially demolished but no lives were lost. Mayor McAra and Mrs. McAra, always deeply sympathetic toward the work of the Y.W.C.A., opened their home in this emergency to the young women of the Association

A cyclone loan of \$8,000.00 was borrowed from the city and the building rebuilt at a cost of \$10,000.00. The building had opened with an outstanding debt of \$18,000.00 and the ladies had been able to secure a mortgage for that amount. In October an addition was completed to the building at a cost of \$10,000.00, making a total indebtedness of \$38,000.00, which, by 1916, had been reduced to \$22,000.00 and \$20.00 per month.

The decision was reached by September 1912 in view "of the important calisthenic work to be undertaken this winter" to build lockers and dressers in a room near the gymnasium, and to engage Miss Magwood as Physical Director at a salary of \$500.00 a year and board.

Problems arose in residence. Girls brought in friends who visited with them, often for several days without reporting this or paying for accommodation. A deputation from the young women of the Association was received. Their spokesman asked that they be allowed the privilege of dancing at their December "At Home" and that they be permitted more freedom in that respect at other times. Old minutes read at that time "After sympathetic and serious consideration of the request present, we feel unable to undertake the responsibility of initiating any such step as has been proposed, feeling that it would be unwise now and would involve difficulties and perplexities which we do not see our way to meet-- We wish to express our appreciation of the assurance received from the young ladies that our decision would be taken in good part and look to the leaders among the girls to help in finding solutions for the problems which arise."

Gentlemen were permitted the use of the gymnasium on Saturday nights. As the work grew, so also did plans for extension, to include the needs of both women and men. Lots were purchased for \$5.00 from the city on the north side across the tracks, with the expectation that a new building would be erected. This was to contain a cafeteria, club and reading rooms, a sewing room and possibly baths. By 1915 the city pressed for action but nothing was done as work had become heavier at Lorne Street and demanded the full attention of Board and staff.

1914 - 1930

The early years of the Regina Association had set in the main the pattern for this period and the years to come. There would be variations in this pattern; there would be changing philosophies, new techniques in working with people, but in broad outline the basis and structure would remain the same.

World War I brought a new awareness of sharpening conflicts and tensions in the world at large. In mid August 1914 the Legion of Frontiersmen left for the war, to be followed shortly afterward by the 26th Saskatchewan Rifles and Regina's Second Contingent. The Regina Association settled down to "only the most practical work" - work with the families of soldiers and the Canadian Red Cross.

The Board was criticized in the community for employing foreign girls but nothing would keep them from pursuing Y.W.C.A. policy of "no discrimination". Interest in public affairs increased; concern was expressed over immigration laws and the low wages of girls in stores and laundries. A survey was made of the wages of employed girls which revealed salaries in stores of \$6.00 - \$20.00 a week, for stenographers of \$60.00 - \$100.00 a month.

There was an upsurge of interest during this period in the needs of teen age girls. A great deal of organizing was being done in schools, Sunday Schools, in Girl Guides and Camp Fire Girls' work. Miss Una Saunders, General Secretary of the Dominion Council, referred particularly to the needs of the teen age girl in her visit to Regina in March 1915. In November of that same year at a special meeting of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board, it was decided that

the need was important enough to justify the Board's going to the public for the required \$900 00 to pay the Girls' Work Secretary's salary. The following September Miss Davison of Winnipeg came to the Regina Association as the first Girls' Work Secretary.

Girls' work expanded rapidly under Miss Davison's direction and aimed at meeting the girls' (1) intellectual needs, (2) physical needs, (3) religious needs, (4) and training for practical experience. Simpson's offered to pay half the fee for employees of three months' standing. The Association co-operated in giving equipment and the leadership of the Girls' Work Secretary to the newly organized teen age movement, the C.G.I.T. and sponsored the first girls' camp at Lumsden. Later, in 1919, the churches were to take over entirely the programme of the C.G.I.T.

Summerholme, the cottage near Ft. Qu'Appelle, where young women might vacation, and another dream of the Board of Directors, became a reality in 1917. Well treed lots were donated by Major Secord and Dr. Hall to the Y.W.C.A. without any reservations; Mr. Gordon Baker gave his property to the Association for so long as it was used for a site. In the July Board meeting Mrs. Forsyth reported that the cottage was completed and ready for the girls for the summer and that 48 girls had registered. For the summers thereafter, until the sale of Summerholme in 1937, the cottage at B-Say-Tah Point was kept open for tired city dwellers and groups of C.G.I.T. girls.

During those war years, women were taking the place of men in jobs which paid much more than the Y.W.C.A. could pay. Often the people whom the Y.W.C.A. could find to carry on its maintenance work had no idea of schedules. Many times the Association

was without a janitor. There are stories on record of one janitor who had to be awakened on cold mornings so that fire could be made in the range to prepare breakfast.

In 1918 the 'flu epidemic struck. A resident in the house at that time wrote thus, "It really was almost beyond words. The people who lived out on the prairies could not get a doctor from the city for days. I am sure that many a person died before help could come. We had our troubles in the house too. All the maids were ill at one time or other. I remember one Sunday afternoon Miss Morton, the General, and I, sat in the basement and peeled potatoes by hand as she said that at least we could serve a boiled potato. Many of our guests were ill, too."

The year 1919 brought post war problems. Inflation had reared its ugly head. The cost of clothing was out of all proportion to salaries; butter went to 80¢ a pound and higher. Margarine was mentioned in Board minutes as an accessory not a substitute for butter. In the midst of this dislocation, girls came from prairie farms and villages, from the British Isles and the Continent in search of employment. Jobs were found through the Y. W. C. A. for many of them; federal and provincial governments were approached in an attempt to find adequate housing.

For the lonely the Y. W. C. A. came to be the place to meet. There were Sunday afternoon classes on the problems of reconstruction, vespers each evening, and firesides on Sundays after church for young men and women, held alternately in the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A.

Gymnastics became increasingly popular, the girls attired in great yardage of serge bloomers, long

black stockings and white middiees with blue ties. The 20's ushered in the flapper era, economic recessions and peaks. A new interest in swimming was sparked.

Late in November 1920 a petition for a swimming pool in the Y.W.C.A. had come from the girls to the Local Council of Women. The Council was anxious to support the movement. A small committee of the Y.W.C.A. met with the girls and Mr. Puntin, the architect. It was estimated that a pool 21 by 35 feet could be put up for about \$5,000.00. Approval was given by the Board to the placing of a swimming pool in the Y.W.C.A., the Board to work in conjunction with the girls and to take the initiative in calling a meeting to arouse public interest. However, the girls were determined to call the public meeting and to raise the \$5,000.00 on their own. By April 1923 the girls had raised \$5,500.00 but the costs of building a pool had increased to well over \$8,000.00.

One Board member expressed the opinion that the Board always in the past had the faith and the will to go forward in any enterprise which they believed to be for the good of the institution and of the girls whom it served and had been blessed in their undertakings. It was she who made the motion, carried unanimously, to proceed immediately with the tile finished pool upon receipt of the \$5,500.00 from the swimming pool committee.

Contractors, it was found, required payment in full three months after the completion of the pool, and therefore postponement of plans became necessary. 168 girls petitioned the Board in May 1924 with the result that a special meeting was called with Mr. Puntin, representation from the Board, two members of the Advisory Board and thirty-two girls present. The

whole problem was aired thoroughly. Cement instead of tiling was ruled out as unsatisfactory. The girls agreed to raise another \$1,600.00 with the hope that business men would donate the rest but dissatisfaction with the delay precipitated a number of special meetings with members of the Board. The necessary amount was raised by the end of 1924 and the pool formally opened April 6, 1925, with something of the color that had characterized the laying of the corner stone. Mayor Mason presided, church dignitaries, and the president of the Y.M.C.A., Kiwanis, Rotary and Gyro Club were invited. Representatives of the girls received the guests, together with Miss Newlands, Mrs. Dunning and members of the Y.W.C.A. Executive Committee.

To dance or not to dance? That question became once more an issue. This time permission for holding dances was to be given at the discretion of the General Secretary but it was stipulated that two Board members and the General Secretary must chaperon.

The demand for overnight accommodation increased by leaps and bounds. In 1926 the Metropolitan Parsonage at 1951 Smith Street was purchased for \$8,000.00 and used as an annex to the main building. In no time consideration had to be given to enlarging either the Y.W.C.A. or the annex but the drastic curtailment of the '30's made it necessary to close the Annex instead.

1930 - 1939

The desolation of those years with crop failure upon crop failure had far reaching effects upon the people of Saskatchewan. It was a period of exodus --

exodus from the province to Ontario and British Columbia, from the southern plains to the northlands; from the farms and villages to the cities. In the cities almost entire blocks of families in certain sections were on relief; people lined up day after day in queues at clothing depots and employment offices; men clung like flies to box cars, begged bread from homes near the railway yards and in 1935 rioted in the streets of Regina.

Girls arrived daily at the Y.W.C.A. penniless and without jobs. There were those who were shabbily dressed, their few belongings tied in paper bundles. Some had worked as hired girls for \$5.00 a month; others were fresh out of high school and business college. A dogged determination to remain independent, discouragement, apathy, dependency -- they were all there.

In this setting the Y.W.C.A. found itself with increasing demands placed upon its services and with rapidly decreasing financial resources. Throughout the years the wear and tear on the building had been heavy. Now in the '30's no ready money was available for necessary major repairs. There were retrenchments in salaries, drastic cuts in expenditures but it was imperative that programme services be maintained at high level. In her report to the Board in the early '30's the General Secretary said, "There never has been a time when the Y.W.C.A. has had a greater opportunity to advance the physical, social, intellectual, moral and spiritual interests of young women, or a clearer call."

The growth in girls' work was phenomenal. Evening clubs for business girls, Thursday groups for household employees flourished. Badminton, tennis,

gymnastics, swimming, archery were carried on, with many of the participants unable to pay even the smallest fee. Delegates, thirty-five in number and representing the various groups within the Association, attended the Saskatchewan Y.W.C.A. Conference in Saskatoon in 1938.

In 1937 the old Annex which was in a state of great disrepair was razed and a tennis court built on its site, funds for this being taken from the proceeds of the sale of Summerholme. Picnics and outings were organized by the groups in the summer time and a stay at home camp for children initiated, with swimming, outdoor games, cook-outs, wiener roasts and other recreational activities. In 1933 a Y.M.C.A.-Y.W.C.A. swimming class was formed in order to cut down the expenses of the swimmers of both Associations.

The Y.W.C.A. co-operated with the Youth Training Plan. Classes were held in the building in homecraft, dressmaking, hairdressing and salesmanship with special lessons given by the Y.W.C.A. afterward for the students in gymnastics and swimming.

"The Y's Place in the Community" was the topic which Miss Hobrecker, General Secretary of the National Council chose for a speech during her April visit in 1936. She spoke of the need to develop standards of employment and of health programmes requiring annual medical certificates. Social case workers she felt were necessary within the Y.W.C.A. setting, in order to help young women with their problems. Of the resident Miss Hobrecker said, "The main concern of the Y.W.C.A. residence should be to promote a high standard of health and an apprec-

lation of spiritual values, to provide opportunities for group living which make it possible for the girl or woman to express and develop her own personality and also to contribute to the life of the group -- to afford ways of securing additional advice, vocational assistance and economic training and to create as far as possible the atmosphere of home "

Meanwhile the Y.W.C.A. was operating its own employment service in the placement of girls in household jobs. Limited staff made it impossible to give a service that was in any way adequate. In October 1936, the decision was made by the Board to discontinue placing girls and to refer all looking for work to government and city employment offices.

Programme services had grown so rapidly in the previous decade that building expansion plans were formulated and a building fund accumulated. The Y.W.C.A. had come by 1934 to the point that it would have to close its doors if substantial financial support did not come to its rescue. Creditors were lenient but debts were mounting beyond reason. Steps were taken therefore to direct funds from the building fund to the current account and in order to keep faith, donors were approached for their permission. The funds so secured were used to pay outstanding debts, but it was not until 1940 that the matter was brought to the Legislature and the fund dissolved.

Donations from service clubs were solicited and a canvass made, yet the amount raised was far from enough. It was at this precarious point in Association financing that the Regina Community Chest was incorporated. The Y.W.C.A. became a member of the Chest in 1935. The lessening of the administrative load in campaigning made it possible thereafter to use

Association energy more constructively in meeting community needs.

The spectre of war was always present In 1937 the Sino-Japanese conflict had broken out In July of 1938 the Board gave their endorsement to the recommendation circulated by the Montreal Y.W.C.A. "that we request the National Council to submit to the Government a protest against the sale of raw materials for munitions to warring countries and that the National Council should find the consensus of opinion of other Y.W.C.A.'s on this matter so that the protest will be representative of the Dominion."

The shadow of Munich had brought gloom to Y.W.C.A. members from all over the world who had attended the World Council Meeting in 1938 at Elgin House, Muskoka. In October, Miss Van Ash Van Wyck, immediate past president of the World's Y.W.C.A. stopped off in Regina on her way to a Seattle conference The subject of her address to women of Regina was a timely one, "A Christian Women's Movement in the World Today".

In November, the Y.W.C.A. pledged its support to the local League of Nations Society in any work undertaken by that body for the relief of Czechoslovakian refugees.

There was much excitement around the Royal visit in May 1939. Extra beds were put up and the building decorated with shields and flags Less than a month after that visit Board members attended a meeting of Chinese women and assisted with the formation of an auxiliary to the Chinese Red Cross.

By September, 1939, Canada was at war -- a

war that was to revolutionize and touch deeply the lives of her womanhood.

World War II -- 1939 - 1945

The mobilization of resources geared to war-time needs brought about wholesale migrations of people -- of service personnel, their wives, friends, families, evacuees, brides from overseas, civilians in essential service. Full employment, higher wages, good prices for wheat, made for economic security but such mass dislocation contributed to social problems, family breakdown, delinquency. Always there was an underlying sense of urgency, of fear and anxiety. Those years with their transitory human relationships became the testing time for basic values and placed heavy pressure upon the Y.W.C.A. and other community organizations.

Almost overnight, women were holding priority jobs in business and industry. Married women experienced satisfactions on the job which they had not found within the home; older women received recognition, often for the first time, of their skills; teen aged girls drew salaries as large or larger than their mothers. Women as volunteers made a remarkable contribution to the total war effort, without losing sight of their responsibility to their immediate community.

War was hardly declared when the Regina Y.W.C.A. Board of Directors offered the services of the Association to the Canadian Red Cross. The following spring, the Travellers' Aid committee was made the nucleus of a war services committee to take up the question of suitable housing for soldiers, their

friends and relatives. Fortnightly dances were held at the Y.W.C.A. for soldiers and airmen; courses were given on how to be a good hostess; service wives and Mr. and Mrs. Clubs were organised. There were weddings in the club room and cooking lessons in the cafeteria for prospective brides. Y.W.C.A. members worked in the canteen and sponsored dances at the Hostess House; club girls knitted for the London Y.W.C.A., put on concerts and other special events in aid of the Milk for Britain Fund and of Mrs. Churchill's Fund for British women in uniform and visited patients in military hospitals. The Association gave its wholehearted support to the sale of war savings stamps and bonds, designating a Board member as their Miss Canada.

First orders were posted in early October 1941 for the Regina platoon of the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Girls were billeted in rooms made available through the Y.W.C.A. and Sacred Heart Academy. They were given the free use of the Y.W.C.A. swimming pool, gymnasium and club rooms. Firesides were open to both men and women of the services.

Passenger traffic in 1941 was then the heaviest in the history of the Canadian railways. The milling crowds of people in the Union Station brought problems in greater number to the Travellers' Aid. The young wife could not locate her husband at bar-racks; the country girl, bewildered by so much confusion, was looking for a housework job; the tired woman with a new baby in her arms and three other small children at her heels needed housekeeping quarters. In the little while left before her husband would go overseas, they hoped they could be together again with their family.

The Y.W.C.A. building hummed with activity. At all hours the lobby was crowded with people looking for a place for the night until they could find more permanent quarters. There were times when not a single bed or chesterfield was available in the house, when women were grateful to be able to sleep in an easy chair or on a gymnasium mat.

The securing of rooms listings soon became too heavy a job for volunteers and finally in 1941 a rooms registry office was set up in the Y.W.C.A. with staff on part time basis and financed through the National War Finance Committee.

In 1943, Mrs. Harvey Agnew, President of the national Y.W.C.A., visited Regina. Mrs. Agnew had been asked by the Dominion Government to supervise the housing programme of the consumer branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Her job as she travelled across Canada visiting every city and large town, was to organize a voluntary registration of Canadian homes for the purpose of making the greatest use of all available space. Her work was done in consultation with local groups and individuals and with the hope that any existing agencies interested in housing would co-ordinate their activities.

A housing committee was set up in Regina under the consumer branch and a full time rooms registry office opened at the Y.W.C.A. Advertisements in the paper of the Regina Area Housing Registry read, "There is an urgent and desperate need for spare rooms, attics, second floor flats -- anything which can be converted into family dwelling units. Nothing is too small or too large. Remember -- the need is urgent!

The housing situation became acute. There was a continual stream of people at the registry office. The secretary in one day interviewed fifty-five people. Families faced eviction charges. Service wives with small children were living at auto camps.

The Leader-Post of March 7, 1944, carried the notice of the public hearings of the Saskatchewan Reconstruction Council to receive submissions respecting:

Conditions and problems that are likely to arise during or after the conclusion of the war," -- and to assist them to, -

"Consider, develop and recommend plans, policies and activities for the purpose of meeting such conditions and problems " On March 10, 1944, Mrs. J. E. Cooper, then president of the Y.W.C.A. and Miss M. Hessel, General Secretary, presented the Y.W.C.A.'s brief on housing to the Reconstruction Council. Some twenty organizations placed their findings on housing conditions before that Council.

According to a statement made to the press afterward by the chairman of the Council "there seemed to be no very clear idea as to where the initiative for righting housing conditions should originate -- with the individual, municipal, provincial or federal authorities."

In 1945, the rooms registry in the Y.W.C.A. was amalgamated with the city's housing registry and Miss Jean Aitken in charge of the Y.W.C.A. registry, joined the staff of the city registry. Early in the year, 850 block captains of the Women's

Voluntary Services conducted a house to house survey in Regina to determine the living space needed for families and individuals and what available accommodation was not being utilized.

The united effort of volunteers was evident throughout the period, -- in the appeal for the organizations doing important war work on the home front and on the battle front, the Canadian Red Cross, the Canadian Legion, Salvation Army, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A., Knights of Columbus, I. O. O. F. and the Navy League of Canada; in the work of the Womens' Volunteer Services, the Local Council of Women and of the consumer branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board in its fight against inflation.

Co-operative effort came too, into the development of community recreational services. Juvenile delinquency made headlines during the war years. Increased delinquency amongst young girls was of particular concern to the Y. W. C. A. The recommendation to appoint a policewoman was turned down by the police commission. Organizations were questioning the supervision of public dance halls. In 1944, the teen agers approached the mayor in an urgent appeal for a "hostess club of their own." As a result, supervised Saturday night dances were held in the city hall auditorium, permission having been given by the Mayor. Dances were promoted by the Children's Aid Society, Handicraft House, The Regina Welfare Bureau, the Y. W. C. A. and the Y. M. C. A. Summer programme for school children was co-ordinated by playground staffs, the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A. and Handicraft Centre. In this programme, swimming lessons and meetings for the children were held at the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A.

A few months before the end of the war, the Y.W.C.A. conducted a two day course in leadership for thirty rural teachers and representatives from places close to Regina. Handicrafts, drama, song leading, a visit to Lakeview School were included in the course. The influence of the school in community cultural development, leadership opportunities for rural school teachers, modern trends in teacher education, the practical approach to health education through the school room, physical education in the classroom, recreation and adult education. The Hon. Woodrow Lloyd, Minister of Education, opened the conference and much of the leadership came from government departments.

In June, 1944, the Canadian Youth Commission sponsored a conference in Regina. Miss Phyllis Purdy of the Y.W.C.A., was conference secretary. About 120 young people met in study groups with experienced leaders in the fields of religion, education, recreation, family living, citizenship and national life, religion and life philosophy. The group asked for increasing of the school leaving age, further opportunities for vocational training, equal pay for equal work, subsidies for heads of families, increased grants to widows, old age pensioners, disabled persons.

The health study group recommended improved health services, more trained medical personnel, establishment of a public health centre and a mental hygiene clinic in Regina.

Establishment of community recreational centres was also recommended.

The young people believed that organizations committed to build citizenship should be the church,

home and school; that the voting age should be lowered to 19 and that all Canadians should learn both English and French.

Post War -- 1945-1955

There was a curious let down in the months immediately following war-end -- as if the ordinary routine of everyday living was in too sharp contrast to the high pitch of wartime activity. One tried to begin again where she had left off before the war; then realized that nothing could be the same again. So it was with the Y.W.C.A., but in the period of transition the Association found new challenge.

The housing situation, even with the return of veterans to their homes in other areas, was still acute. The first concern of the Association was for the welfare of the discharged service women who were taking courses in Regina, and who needed living quarters in the housing emergency. The Maple Leaf Hostel was leased by the Anglican Church jointly to the Y.W.C.A. and Citizens Rehabilitation Committee at \$200.00 a month, the lease to run from March 15, 1946 to May 31, 1947. The Y.W.C.A. took complete responsibility for the administration of the hostel. Accommodation with light housekeeping facilities was provided for 62 girls at reasonable rates. In May of '47 the Hostel or the Hostess House as it had become known, was taken over by the Anglican W.A.

The city housing registry closed in 1948, but toward the end of the same year a rooms registry was set up in the Y.W.C.A. as part of the Travellers' Aid Department and was supported by a grant from the City of Regina. By 1953 the number of applications for rooms had increased from 3,518 to 6,028.

Housing developments mushroomed but acute housing shortages still existed. Rentals were inflated where they were not affected by rental control measures. Families in middle salary brackets and elderly people with fixed income bore the brunt of exorbitant rentals.

The Housing Committee of the Local Council of Women submitted a brief to the City Council in 1954 proposing subsidized housing as a means of alleviating the situation. In the November civic elections 1954, citizens voted by a small majority against favoring a by-law under which the city, provincial and federal governments would enter into a subsidized housing project. The issue, however, was still kept alive.

The years following the war saw a great influx of people from other countries - people from the camps of Europe, others in the main from the Netherlands, Germany, and the British Isles, some from Italy, Greece, China. They brought with them vitality and rich background of culture.

The Y.W.C.A. at first co-operated with the I.O.D.E. in providing basic English classes. These were discontinued because of Night School classes. In 1955 informal classes were developed in the programme department of the Y.W.C.A. for New Canadian mothers unable to attend Night School.

That same year the Y.W.C.A. affiliated with the newly incorporated New Canadians and Citizenship Council, a society composed of representatives of organizations, of individuals, and branches of government interested in -

(a) promoting an understanding and apprec-

iation of the privileges of Canadian citizenship.

(b) the development and integration of such educational, recreational, and other services as may be necessary for furthering the welfare of New Canadians

(c) providing liaison and co-ordination between private citizens, welfare agencies, government services, churches and other community groups - active in or interested in furthering the welfare of New Canadians.

(d) presenting and interpreting to the community as a whole the needs and problems of new Canadians and also their potential contribution to the community as new citizens.

In all the periods of its history the Y.W.C.A. in some form or other has been actively interested in public affairs. A citizenship consultation was held May 20-24, 1955 in Toronto at national headquarters when a group of activity, committee and board members considered ways and means of making citizenship and its responsibilities a more spontaneous and integral part of Y.W.C.A. programme. Mrs. W B. Clipsham, a Regina Board member, and chairman of the Travellers' Aid and Rooms Registry Committee, took part in this consultation

The needs of many Canadian Indian women moving in from the reservations to urban areas had long been the concern of the Travellers' Aid and Rooms Registry Committee of the Regina Y.W.C.A. The impact of white culture, frequently far from its best, upon the more primitive culture of the Indian had often been demoralizing. In June, 1954 four represent-

atives of the Regina Y.W.C.A. attended a conference of chiefs and councillors of the Qu'Appelle Agency in which employment for Indian girls of limited education was an issue.

In October, 1954 the Regina Association was requested by the National Public Affairs Committee to gather data preparatory to a conference on methods of combating discrimination and prejudice. At a meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council held in Geneva in the summer of 1954, the decision was taken to convene a conference of non-governmental organizations for an exchange of views concerning the most effective methods of combating discrimination. The World Y.W.C.A. was urged to participate because of its long tradition of effort on behalf of minority groups. The World Office was particularly interested in knowing what were the main aspects of this problem in Canada, to what extent evidence of prejudice and discrimination was found in relation to colour or race, and what steps the Y.W.C.A.'s were taking in the building of understanding between people of different backgrounds in their communities.

Mutual service has come to be a significant phase of Association work. In 1954 the Regina Y.W.C.A. raised close to \$1,000.00, this amount to go toward Canada's World Service Fund, used chiefly for the development of indigenous leadership in India, Ceylon, Burma, Surinam, Sierra Leone, and the Gold Coast. In giving, Canada has received also from these countries. Gradually there has been built up a mutual understanding, and an appreciation of differences and cultural backgrounds.

Mutual service was once "the foreign work of the Association", deriving its financial support

from drawing-room teas. What has happened in the evolution of mutual service is typical of what has happened in relationships within the Association since its founding. There has been a moving away from the idea of "doing for" to "doing with", and more recognition of the fact that the vitality of the Association depends in large degree upon the active participation of its members in the processes of evaluating, planning, and developing their own programme in all its phases. Something of that order happened in what led up to the building of the swimming pool in 1925.

As a membership organization, the Association within recent years has placed increasing emphasis upon purpose, and the implications of purpose in personal and group relationships, and in standards of work. "To build a fellowship of women and girls . . . devoted to the task of realising . . . ideals of personal and social living to which we are committed by our faith as Christians. In this endeavour we seek to understand Jesus, to share His love for all people, and to grow in the knowledge and love of God. "Throughout the years there has been much falling short; there have been many failures and successes - as there must be in any field of human endeavour; and there have been differences in thinking and in methods. Yet out of all this, there has emerged a sense of direction, and of deepening purpose.

In the earlier part of the 1950's the trend was toward classes and larger group activities. Square dancing, beginning in the Y.W.C.A., spread throughout the city; drama workshops for children became an important programme feature. Long distance bus tours were organized during the summer for women, - a travel club was formed. Early in 1951 the public cafeteria, which had been operating at a deficit, was

closed, but a food service was retained for the young women living in residence and overnight guests. The space, formerly occupied by the cafeteria, was used for the development of much needed group activity. A part time play school was opened in the fall of 1951, was re-opened the next fall, and closed that same year as the need at that time did not appear to be great enough to justify its existence. Small groups grew out of the larger activities; greater emphasis was placed on programme with mothers, teenagers, young adults.

Just what were the needs of the girls and women in Regina? What sort of programmes would appeal to them? How could Y.W.C.A. resources - its facilities, its staff and volunteer skills - be used most effectively in the community? Was the Y.W.C.A. duplicating services offered by other organizations or governmental departments in Regina? These were questions which the Y.W.C.A. could not answer alone. Association leadership saw the wisdom of greater consultation and co-operation on the part of the Y.W.C.A. with other community organizations. In March 1955 at a special meeting of members of the Board of Directors endorsement was given to the idea of establishing a community welfare council in Regina. As the concept of community has widened, the Y.W.C.A. has come to realize that it must assume responsibility, together with other organizations, for working toward constructive inter-group relationships, not only at the local, but at the provincial, national and world levels.

Association members have come and gone - board, staff and committee members have come and gone; so also activity participants - but the Association remains. This has been achieved not through one

person or one group, but through the relationships of many persons, and many groups.

Since that October day in 1911 the saplings in Victoria Park have grown into trees, and the stone step at the entrance to the Y.W.C.A. building has become worn with the passage of many feet. The words come back across the years with new clarity - "It is a blessed privilege to have a part in the beginning of things."

* * * * *

REGINA Y.W.C.A.

PRESIDENTS

Mrs. W McKay Omand	1910
Mrs A. H. Tasker	1912
Mrs J. V. Hannon	1916
Mrs G Forsyth	1922
Mrs. J F Bryant	1925
Mrs. F. C. Middleton	1929
Mrs H A Croome	1932
Mrs. R. J Westgate	1933
Mrs. D. J McKillop	1935
Mrs J. H. Tandy	1936
Mrs. W Corcoran	1936
Mrs. J. E. Cooper	1937
Mrs F. W. Whitworth	1938
Mrs. J. E. Cooper	1941
Mrs. J. T. Waddell	1943
Mrs. H. C. Shillington	1946
Mrs. J. R. Hoag	1948
Mrs. E. E Brockelbank	1950
Mrs. O. McCreary	1952
Miss J. E. Haney	1953
Mrs. L. B. Thomson	1955

SASKATOON



Red Feather Agency.

The Y. W. C. A.
Saskatoon.



The Camp, Watrous



THE Y.W.C.A. IN SASKATOON

1910 - 1953

THE BEGINNING, 1910 - 1913

Staff

Travellers' Aid work was being done in Saskatoon for some time before an Association was formally organized. Miss Millicent Simcox, one of three Deaconesses sent out by the Church of England to do social service work on the Prairies, began to realize during the course of her work, the need for someone who would look after girls and women coming as strangers to the city, and indeed to Canada. As Miss Simcox had private means, she rented a room in Mr Norman's Printing establishment, and, after setting up a few cots, began the self-imposed task of meeting all trains, including one which arrived at 4 a.m. This work she continued until, in 1910, a Y.W.C.A. was organized. Christ Church W.A. and the Golden West Chapter of the I.O.D.E. appear to share the honor of getting the Y.W.C.A. actually started. The I.O.D.E. Chapter however, took the final step of inviting Miss Lane of the Dominion Y.W.C.A. Council to come to Saskatoon for the purpose of inaugurating the new Association. Mrs. John Ashworth, who was also President of the Christ Church W.A. was made President of the first group, although at that time there was no real Board of Directors. About 40 of the more prominent women in the city formed the original membership.

The first General Secretary was Miss Sadie Walker, who later became Mrs. Robert Hawkins and has long been associated with women's activities in Saskatoon. Miss Stella Tuckey was the first Residence Director, or as it was then called, matron. During periods when staff was difficult to secure, members themselves took turns in being in charge of the cottage. Miss Simcox also continued her efforts and worked without salary whenever the need appeared. It is difficult indeed to see how the Y.W.C.A. could have survived those first months without her aid and encouragement. By 1910 the staff consisted of Miss McIlwain as matron and Miss Simcox, assisted by Miss Jones, who met trains and ran an Employment Bureau in connection with the Y. Later in the year Miss Godby was named assistant secretary.

In 1912 Mrs. Chadwick was matron and the news report states that she was making the house pay its way with a neat surplus. After the move to the new building was accomplished, Miss McManus, a teacher, helped out as secretary. When the school term resumed, Miss Tuckey, who had been conducting a kindergarten class, returned to the Y.W.C.A. as General Secretary and remained for six and one half years. In 1913, Mrs. McPhail succeeded Mrs. Chadwick as superintendent of the residence, and a fairly rapid succession of Travellers' Aid secretaries followed. Later that year a part time secretary for the business office was needed and Miss Boyte was appointed.

Membership, Board and Committees

We have mentioned in the preceding paragraphs how the Association was first formed in Saskatoon. It might be of interest here to record the

names of those women who formed that first group. They were:- Mesdames Ashworth, Murray, J.C. Bell, J. H. Holmes, L. G. Calder, Wiggins, W. C. Sutherland, McNab, E. Gordon, Jas. R. Wilson, Russell Wilson, F. J. Sparling, Weaver, Hopkins, Reed, White, MacVicar, Greig, Rutherford, Straton, Snell, Kirkpatrick, St. Laurent, G. A. Wright, R. B. Irvine, G. H. Clare, Cairns, Eagen, and the Misses Simcox, Walker and Fletcher. There is some doubt, according to the newspaper account, which is the only record available, whether this represents the total membership or is the first group of Directors. At all events, they faced many difficulties, not the least of which, then as always was the securing of donations to maintain even one room. Women canvassers plodded all day up and down stairs and one day, secured only one contribution of 65¢ from a Chinese businessman. However, by May of 1910 the membership had increased to 60 and now, well-rooted, it continued to grow vigorously as the city prospered. In its early years several types of membership were available. Prominent men of the city were invited to become honorary members at a fee of \$10.00. Life memberships were \$25.00, and there were both active and sustaining memberships available at \$1.00 and \$5.00 respectively. In that first year the Directors hoped to enlist 200 men as members and the names of many well-known gentlemen, including the Honorable A. P. McNab and John Ashworth, are listed as already having made their contribution. At the end of 1911, the Annual Report gives a total of 215 members, 6 life, 101 honorary, 50 sustaining and 50 active. In 1912 about \$443.00 was collected from memberships, but the proportion of each kind is not specified and late in 1913 a concentrated membership drive had netted 88 new members.

During this first period the structure of the Board gradually assumed shape. It started with a membership of 31 in 1910. This, of course, proved unwieldy, and in 1911 it was decided to reduce the number to 21. The usual Executive positions were included, although with only one Vice-President. The Standing Committees at that time were four; Membership, Finance, House, and Building. The forerunner of the Advisory Board is seen in the appointment of a group of 8 prominent men of the city to act as trustees for the Building Fund. In 1913 these committees were added to the others; Religion, Social, Travellers' Aid, Employment Bureau. The building now having been erected, this committee was no longer necessary.

The Building

The Y.W.C.A. in Saskatoon had a nomadic existence for its first few years, but fortunately, the erection of the permanent structure coincided with the building boom of the period 1910-1912 and we have a building, not all that we wanted, even at the time but more than we could have obtained easily almost any time after it was built.

The first home of the Association was a small room which Miss Millicent Simcox rented adjoining Norman's Printing Office. Then, when the Y.W.C.A. was formally inaugurated in 1910, a cottage on 4th Avenue was leased. Then, as now, citizens were generous, and the four cots with their bedding were contributed. This house was rapidly outgrown and rooms on 22nd Street were rented, but for only one month. Rooms were then rented in the McBeth Block at \$20.00 monthly and efforts to raise money for a permanent building were redoubled. The

Advisory Board told the Directors that \$2,000.00 must be in hand before a building could be started (a modest enough beginning certainly) and many and devious were the means adopted to raise money for the project. There were, of course, the usual teas, sales of work and so on. Among the more ambitious efforts was a mammoth three-day Novelty Fair in September 1911. There was the usual collection of booths, along with some others not so common. A table of remodelled trimmed hats went well, and a booth featuring drug sundries and called the Red Cross Booth, was an odd note. The Women's Auxiliaries of the various city churches served lunch and dinner, and the whole affair brought in well over \$1,000.00; it was an enormous success. Another fund raising scheme was the series of five lectures presented for the most part by Professors at the University. The series sold for \$1.50 and was well attended; it netted about \$220.00. The "little purple bags" were unique in Saskatoon. 488 of these bags were distributed to friends of the Y.W.C.A., and they pledged themselves to put 1¢ per day into the bags. The local paper gave them a good press and even spoke of them as being a dainty decoration for milday's boudoir or drawing room. The contents were collected monthly and by the end of a year they had gathered nearly \$340.00. By the middle of 1911 the \$2,000.00 objective was over-reached and the decision to build definitely made.

During this time the institution was still very mobile. From the McBeth Block they moved to a cottage on 4th Avenue owned by Mr. J.F. Cairns, and given rent free for a period of six months. This gave the hard-pressed group a respite and the budget began to swell with profits from room rents coming in regularly. After this period at the Cairns Cottage expired a move was made to the former Bell home, the site of

the present Rosary Hall on Spadina Crescent, and here they remained until the permanent building was ready. Again everyone was very generous to the new organization, one instance being the offer by the Knox W.A. to permit meetings of the Board to be held in the Church Hall rent free, as the Y.W.C.A. rooms were too small to accommodate all the Board members.

In May 1911 the site of the building was purchased from Mrs. John Ashworth, who very generously let the lot go for the sum she had paid for it some years previously, \$4,000 00. At the inflated price of property at that period, this was almost a gift. A good deal of debate about plans took place, but after securing competitive plans from a number of firms, the plans of a local architectural firm, Thompson, Daniels and Coulthard, were chosen. In May 1911 an enormous drive for funds for both the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. was held in the city and in the incredible time of five days, the sum of \$137,741.00 was pledged; enough to start both buildings.

The rather grandiose plans for our building, however, had to be modified. It was originally intended to erect a three wing building with a swimming pool in the basement of one wing. However, it was soon obvious that the money available would not stretch that far, so the centre wing only was built and has so remained for 40 years. The usual delays and increasing costs occurred but finally in May 1912, the hard won victory was achieved and the building opened. Among executive members who are remembered most vividly for their efforts to complete the building were the Board President, Mrs. W. C. Murray, and the Building Convener, Mrs. F. J. Sparling; but

indeed, everyone connected with the Y.W.C.A. worked long and tirelessly.

An ingenious method of helping to furnish the rooms was adopted, too. For \$65.00 a bedroom could be equipped and at least 18 persons are on record as having made this contribution, as well as one citizen, Mr. J. C. Drinkle, who gave \$2,500.00 to furnish the downstairs rooms. The history of the Y. W. here, as elsewhere, is full of heartening references to similar acts of generosity as well as the devotion and self-sacrifice of hundreds whose names will never be recorded.

Building and Maintenance

Once having obtained the permanent building, even though it was only one third of what had been hoped for, matters remained fairly static as far as enlargements were concerned. In the building as originally planned and used, meals were served and the northeast room on the first floor was at that time a dining room, with the kitchen in the basement.

Even from the first, flood conditions and water caused a certain amount of damage to the basement and references to extensive repair and remodeling operations are frequent. Looming over everyone too, was the spectre of the mortgage. In spite of valliant efforts, the total sum of roughly \$42,000.00 for the lot and building, plus nearly \$5,000.00 for furnishings had not been reached. A mortgage was a necessity and the difficulty of meeting these payments baunted the members for many years.

Program

For the first few months of its existence the energies of the Y.W.C.A. in Saskatoon were concentrated on enlisting members and finding rooms where girls and women could obtain shelter. The Association here really grew out of Travellers' Aid work and that has remained one of its chief preoccupations, forming a vital link between the public and the Y.W.C.A. Very soon however, the members and the staff began the long series of ventures that continues until today. Whenever there appeared a need for a service, a club, or a class, the Y. was ready to organize. Sometimes these grew beyond the shelter of the Association, but the Y.W.C.A. deserves credit for starting a great many worthwhile endeavours. As we said above, most efforts in the first year were directed toward fund-raising, both to carry on the current work and to build a permanent home. Even with this preoccupation however, by the end of 1910, a needlework class was started, and Miss Simcox was holding a Sunday afternoon Bible Study Class. These Bible Study groups were destined to continue for many years, until one supposes the various churches assumed responsibility for the program. The needlework class was very practical and in the heyday of the "Gibson Girl" concentrated on making shirtwaists. The need for a library in connection with the association was considerable and in 1911 Mrs. Bradley, a sister of Miss Simcox, sent out a box of 100 books from England. The library has waxed and waned since then, but before the Public Library was established, it too, filled a need.

In 1912 a project was a Y.W.C.A. tent for mothers and children at the Fair. This was very well

received. Then in the fall of that year with the advent of Miss Tuckey as General Secretary, classes were started in history and literature. Then, as now, the University of Saskatchewan was a rich source of aid, and Miss Mary Oliver and Miss Jean Bayer, members of the University Staff gave their services as instructors in these classes. Miss Wilson gave instruction in dressmaking.

The Travellers' Aid work, which was very heavy, had a close call in 1913 when a shortage of staff made it seem impossible to carry on. However, apparently public opinion was so strongly against any discontinuing of the service that the Board decided to appoint a new Secretary, Miss McLean and continue the work. Girls were arriving daily from Europe, and Travellers' Aid was of great value. In 1912, 976 trains were met, and 232 girls were sent to the Y.W.C.A. as their first home in Canada. Another need in this connection was met by the setting up of classes in the English language for these girls. The teachers were local young women and in the first class 21 girls were given instruction.

The residence girls did not have a formal club as far as we know but did gather for parties and social outings with the approval and assistance of the staff and the Board. In 1913 a French conversation class was formed and it was decided to ask the Y.M.C.A. for the use of its gym and swimming pool one night a week to accommodate young women's classes. Apparently this did not materialize at the time, as gym classes were organized later in the year in the Baptist Church parlor under the leadership of Mrs. A. R. Morgan. The library was growing too, as the former library committee donated \$200.00 for

the purchase of books. One of the first clubs was formed that year, the Strangers Welcome Club, with an attendance of 40. It too, was to have a fairly long life.

Finance

The financing of the infant organization called forth all the ingenuity and zeal of the members. In another part of this record, mention is made of the tiring door-to-door canvass for funds, and that remained a part of the Y. financing until we jointed the Community Chest. The main source of income in the first years was the membership fee with the different classifications which have been mentioned previously. By far the largest group has always been the active membership, and indeed, the sustaining type of membership fell into disuse long ago. In addition to these funds, which by 1914 amounted to close to \$1,000.00, various schemes were constantly afoot for raising money. The residence from its earliest days was usually self-supporting, and most often even showed a profit. People too, were very generous with gifts, and there are records of all kinds of donations: linen, books, a clock, and almost every type of furnishing. Until the building was opened in 1912, most effort was diverted to that purpose and of course, for more than 10 years after, the mortgage had always to be the first consideration. The first grant from the city was made in 1911. The amount requested was \$5,000.00 but available evidence seems to point to \$2,000.00 as the actual figure.

By June 1912, with the new building finally occupied, the financial outlook is quite bright. In the month of May the house took in \$1,055.00, realizing

a profit of \$420.00. This was exclusively revenue from the residence but in 1912, the Board decided to charge a small fee for the Physical Culture classes. All the tried and true money-raising schemes were in use, teas, bazaars, socials, as well as a concerted drive at least once a year to enroll new members. The Employment Bureau in 1913 charged prospective employers \$1.00 per year but made no charge to those seeking work. By the end of 1913 the demand for rooms was so great that an annex had to be rented; old timers will remember it as the Chubb home on 21st Street. In the budget for the coming year an expenditure of \$23,266.00 was expected. Of this it was thought \$20,283.00 could be taken in by the residence and dining room. It would cost \$722.00 to run Travellers' Aid and they hoped to take in \$480.00 from teas, benefits and donations for this work. \$500.00 was expected in membership fees and \$360.00 from the Employment Bureau. That year, too, \$250.00 was sent to the Dominion Council of the Y.W.C.A.

By the end of 1913 one great concern of the Finance Committee was tactfully to remind those who had promised large contributions to the Building Fund, that their subscriptions would be most welcome. Over 100 such letters were sent out. A big bazaar finished the year with \$200.00 going to the treasury as a result.

PERIOD - THE FIRST WORLD WAR, 1914 - 1918

Staff

Very little information is available about staff during these war years. Miss Tuckey continued as General Secretary, and presumably the same staff

continued in the other departments. In 1917 a secretary for Girls' Work was hired, Miss Jessie McDiarmid, and Miss Janet Crawford was teaching Physical education and dancing classes.

Membership, Board and Committees

Membership continued to climb with 345 mentioned in 1914 and a year later 550. This figure, with minor variations remained constant for several years.

In 1914 the Board published its first Annual Report in booklet form. As it included a number of advertisements, we may conclude that these helped meet the costs of publishing. A statement of what the Y. offered to women at that time, as set forth in the booklet is informative.

1. A place to meet a friend, leave a parcel or use the telephone
2. A place to write a letter or linger in the pleasant rotunda.
3. A place to get a well-cooked meal.
4. A place to be directed to rooms or to any part of the city.
5. A place to get a bath or secure the use of a sewing machine at a nominal sum.
6. A place where the business girl may rest a while at noon.

7. A place to secure employment or help.
- 8 A place to join Bible or Mission Study Classes.
9. A place to find a Helping Hand when you need it most.

This year too, the Travellers' Aid Committee was enlarged to include representatives from the Women's Auxiliaries of the various city churches. This increased the committee to 20 members and it continues in a very similar form to the present day.

In 1916 we find the first reference to the use of ballots in voting for Board members. A motion that at least one unmarried woman be a Board member was also introduced that year. Toward the end of the year, we became affiliated with the Local Council of Women for the first time, and also increased the Board membership to 22.

Building and Maintenance

In 1915, it was discovered that a need existed for gymnasium facilities, which were not available in our building and the Y.M.C.A. pool and gym were rented for \$40 00 a month. From the earliest beginnings of the Y. in Saskatoon, the citizens had been appealed to for gifts of linen, and this was becoming by now an annual affair. Tea was served and occasionally a conducted tour of the building was arranged at this event. Residence continued to pay its way with a steady stream of guests; 158 transient guests were noted in June 1916, and in 1917 both Dining Room and guest rooms showed a profit. The need for

adequate equipment was realized, and that year saw the purchase of a potato peeler and an electric washing machine. It was decided too, to build a verandah on to the east side of the main building. This year saw a great many such changes, another being the purchase for \$500.00 of the old Knox Church Hall and its removal (for \$175.00) to the lot immediately adjoining the west side of the building. While neither of these structures added anything, architecturally to the appearance of the Y.W.C.A. they did supply a need at the time, and the hall particularly, has continued to do so right up to the present.

Extra beds were being made up constantly and we can assume that the greater amount of travelling by soldiers' relatives in war time was mainly responsible for this extra activity. In 1918 the need for some type of accommodation for delinquent girls was realized, but no special steps were taken then. In the fall of this year the Y. cared for several cases of flu' as the building was fairly empty of travellers during the epidemic. Arrangements were made too, to care for the women and children expected as immigrants following the war.

Program

During this period the Bible Study Classes continued, and the Sunday evening fireside song service, inaugurated in 1913 became a part of the Y. tradition. Physical Training classes were held in the Dining Room in 1914 and later, as we have already observed, negotiations were finally made with the Y.M.C.A. and the girls were taken over there for classes (always heavily chaperoned).

Mrs. Murray arranged a series of lectures on the background of the war and this was attended by about 100 people. There was a modest charge for the benefit of the Y. treasury. The library was still in existence and ten weekly and monthly periodicals came into the building. The English classes continued and the Strangers Welcome Club, from being purely social, turned its attention to comforts for soldiers, and war relief. In 1915 a swimming instructor was hired and the Y.M.C.A. gym and pool again rented. The P.T. classes had grown from 48 members in 1913 to an enrolment of 457 in 1915.

A recommendation appears now in the minutes that training for teachers in Religious Education be started but there is no evidence to show whether this was carried out. The Religious Committee did however, arrange for a conference of leaders of teen-age girls. Classes in painting, millinery and lectures on music rounded out the program in 1915.

This year the first reference to Camp occurs, when it is noted that a camp was held at Ladder Lake, near Big River, with room for 36 at \$4.00 per week.

This pattern of events continued; in 1917 a Practical Cookery Class for teen-age girls was held at Victoria School at 25¢ a lesson. Painting and French classes continued and the Strangers Welcome Club held weekly meetings. In June 1917 the first Camp at Watrous was held, and, as usual, there was a generous response to the request for equipment for the new venture. During all these years Miss Crawford was teaching Physical Culture, basketball, and folk dancing, and always ended the year with an elaborate and profitable display of the

talents and progress of her pupils. 196 were enrolled in the various classes for married ladies, business girls, young girls, and small children.

The Board was pioneering then, in 1918, in social welfare, with a recommendation that girls working in cafes either stop work in time to catch the last car home or be escorted home after midnight.

This year a special supper was served illustrating the use of war time recipes and costing only 14¢ a plate. We were no longer able to rent the Y.M.C.A. pool and gym and the need for one of our own was to be stressed again and again in the coming years. Other aspects of Program were going well, though; the library now contained 500 books; 121 girls had attended Watrous Camp and about 2,200 transient guests had been given rooms in the building. By and large things were in a flourishing condition.

Finance

With the war years the demand for services from the Y.W.C.A. had increased and that brought increased financial obligations. Memberships still held at a good level and special events were constantly contributing to the treasury. We have already mentioned the lectures about the War but this illustrates the ability of the Executive always to seize an opportunity both to give a service and to make money for other work. By 1915 the problem of interest payments on the mortgage loomed large and a Lawn Social was arranged to take care of it, however, only \$33.70 was realized and other garden parties and sales were held. At this point and for some years to come each committee was responsible for raising funds

for its own projects, and the Travellers' Aid Committee gave at least one big tea each year. This was supported by the churches and was usually a great success. Indeed, their finances were in such good shape that the Board was forced to borrow \$375.00 from them in order to meet the mortgage payments at the end of 1915. Another venture that year was serving meals at the Fair, and the members canvassed the public for contributions of food.

In 1916 the mortgage became such a serious issue that the company financing it offered a new proposal. Among other things it boiled down to an agreement that \$500.00 of the principal be paid by January 31st of that year and \$500.00 on each interest date thereafter, until December 1917. The mortgage was to be extended for five years at an interest rate of 7 1/2%. Every opportunity to raise money was seized upon. \$300.00 was made by serving meals in F. R. MacMillan's Store during the week of the Grain Growers' Convention, and in March, a city-wide campaign for funds was held again, and brought in \$904.00. Another blow was the raising of the interest rate to 8% in June 1916, but nevertheless the deadline was met and \$1,000.00 paid on principal and interest. Meantime the house and Dining Room continued to show a profit, but building repairs amounting to \$1,200.00 increased the financial anxiety. In 1917 however, the door-to-door canvass brought in \$2,337.57 and money was again sent to Dominion Council, although only \$75.00 this time. In line with increased costs of living, rents for single rooms were raised from \$6.75 to \$7.00 a week. All the usual concerts, gymnasium displays, showers and teas were still held. One new venture was a Business Men's Lunch which took in \$358.54. Regular meals were served for 35¢ for dinner and 30¢ for supper. The newspaper reported

in March 1917, "Affairs were never in better financial shape", by which somewhat ambiguous statement, we may assume that all was well. The financial statement at the end of the year gives some figures. \$904.20 was raised for the Building Fund, \$1,601.85 profit from meals at the Fair. The following year in March the financial campaign again brought in a bit better than \$2,000.00, and our contribution to the Dominion Council was \$50.00. \$2,000.00 was paid on the mortgage and finances seemed to be well in hand. Rates for transient guests were raised from \$1.50 to \$1.90 a day but as this included three meals it could not be called exorbitant. By the end of the year the price of individual meals was raised 5¢ each.

A new fund raising device was a Tag Day, the first of a long series. This was to be held in November of 1918, but no record of it is available so it is possible that the flu¹ epidemic caused it to be cancelled that year. A loss is recorded in both Dining Room and Residence late in 1918, but that too, was attributed to the epidemic.

PERIOD - POSTWAR, 1919 - 1929

Staff

After serving the Y.W.C.A. faithfully for 6 1/2 years, Miss Tuckey resigned in 1919 and her place as General Secretary was taken by Miss Margaret MacDonald. Then, in 1920 Miss Millicent Simcox resigned, after a period of service whose value it would be impossible to repay. Later that year Miss MacDonald left also to become Western Field Secretary with offices in Winnipeg, and she was replaced by Miss McCalla. During this period the

various House Superintendents included Mrs. Monteith, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. N. Bole. Then, in 1924, Mrs. Green took on the job, and remained with the institution until 1931. By 1922 Miss McAdam was the General Secretary, and Miss Wilson was Travellers' Aid Secretary, with Miss Evans looking after the Employment Bureau. Miss Gibberson had been acting as Girls' Work Secretary for some time and remained in that capacity for two years. The Physical Education Staff was in considerable demand at that time to conduct classes out of town, and Miss Gibberson also was asked to form a C.G.I.T. group in the town of Leney. Miss Lillian Knowles came as General Secretary about 1925, and her tenure of office continued for three years.

About the period of 1926-27 a close collaboration with the Y.M.C.A. was started, continuing for a good many years. We had several times hired the Y.M. pool and gym but now we went the further step of having their Physical Instructor, Mr James West give the classes to the girls as well.

In 1928 Miss Helen Manson became General Secretary, but remained only a short time being replaced by Miss Daisy Kellam. Miss Muriel Alexander was now assisting with the P.T. work; Miss Lillian Knowles was Travellers' Aid Secretary with the help of Miss Hannah Nicholson.

Membership, Board and Committees

In 1920 the membership reached a high point of 668 active, 5 sustaining, and 4 junior. This total declined by about a 100 by 1924, but in the following year shot up to an almost incredible 800, the reason probably being the increasing activity in Girls' Work.

The gain was not maintained however, and in 1926 the figure is back to about 590 by the end of that year. Apparently a considerable number of those enrolled in clubs and classes did not feel impelled to become members, as their number in 1927 was about 1,100, while the membership was still below 600.

Through all these beginning years we find the Dominion Council very helpful in sending out representatives to visit the branches, and the local Y.W.C.A. benefitted greatly both by their practical advice and their inspiration. Possibly because of this, the records show donations made to Dominion Council practically every year, in amounts ranging from \$25.00 to \$250.00. In 1920 the Girls' Council was formed to represent every line of work in which girls were employed, and which would have the interest of all girls at heart. In 1921 the Board, in co-operation with the Social Service Council, was agitating for a trained social worker in the city; but it was to be some years before this was achieved.

In 1923 the first mention of a Saskatoon Y.W.C.A. Constitution was made, when the suggestion appeared that a committee work on this project. The Annual Report was to be printed again that year, possibly for the first time since 1914-15. A rather brisk turnover of personnel occurred during this period and out of it emerged some suggestions regarding policy, which are still in use.

1. That the work of the different committees be definitely outlined.
2. That the work of the Secretary also be fixed

3. That the President meet the Secretary every month and, if need be, the conveners of committees.

An event of 1926 was the visit of Miss Charlotte Nevin, World General Secretary. This was celebrated with a big tea, and Miss Nevin was also given an opportunity to meet girls at the Y.M.C.A. gym, and various clubs. In all she addressed nearly 900 people. In April of that year the Board moved to speak to the Local Council of Women and the Board of Trade about the wisdom of having so many charitable appeals before the public almost simultaneously.

In 1927 occurred what appears to be the first Annual Banquet with all departments represented, and this in honor of Mrs. Percival Foster, Field Secretary.

Building and Maintenance

The Linen Shower had by now become an accepted custom, and it did provide a link with the public, as well as realizing a substantial amount of linen. The greater freedom of girls following the war was just being recognized as a problem, and the Board, in discussing rules for the use of the building, decided that, while it was desirable for young people to have a chance to meet one another, mixed dancing at the Y.W.C.A. was not necessary for happy evenings. The changing time is reflected too, in the order to have a fire escape shortened so that illicit entries could not be made by that route. A pay telephone was installed for the convenience of the residence girls and a policy was adopted of closing the doors at 11 p.m. with two late leaves a week. By 1919 the regulations were

further relaxed, and the residence girls had parties fortnightly, with their men friends invited for dancing once a month, with two Board members present. In 1921 a piano was purchased on the installment plan and later that year, the Club girls bought a Victrola. During this period the Y. Living Room, and presumably the Hall adjacent to the building were being used for meetings by outside organizations. A certain number of dinners were catered for as well, notably those of the Ministerial Association, the Local and Provincial Councils of Women, and the I.O.D.E. In 1923, it is rather interesting to see that the fee charged for these meetings was \$5.00 for the I.O.D.E. but \$7.00 for other groups.

In 1925 a sewing machine was purchased, but this must have been a second machine, as reference to one was made as early as 1915. In 1927 the Board is becoming even more acutely aware of the need for a gymnasium and pool, but aside from attempting to build up the Extension Fund, the time did not seem ripe to attempt any ambitious building program. However, one step forward was the acquisition of the additional 50 feet on 3rd Avenue adjoining the Y.W.C.A. to the north, for the sum of \$1,200 00 cash. Each year the need for extension was more obvious but by 1929 we were approaching the depression and it was slowly becoming apparent that great efforts would be needed to maintain what we had without thought of further expenditures. In 1929 the house and Dining Room were still self-supporting with a small credit balance, but by the end of the year an ominous note was sounded in the report which stated that 1,483 free meals and 441 free beds were provided during the year. Earlier, in 1927, the residence also became an official hostel for the use of the Women's British

Immigration League in Northern Saskatchewan, and all British girls were required to register here on their arrival. According to an agreement with the Department of Immigration, British domestics were to have free accommodation for the first 48 hours after they reached Saskatoon. Of the three who arrived that first week, all were placed within the 48 hours.

Program

In 1917, Miss Crawford put on another successful children's musical and dancing fantasy which netted a nice sum. Special interest groups were held for Ukrainian immigrants, with four different speakers discussing typically Canadian situations. A Teachers' Institute was held to train Sunday School teachers and leaders. This year, while appreciating the privilege of having a camp at the Watrous cottage of Mr. A. J. Sparling, the Board planned to build a Y.W.C.A. camp to accommodate 30 to 40 girls at an estimated cost of \$2,800.00. Later in the summer, Mrs. Sherry offered to give a concert to help furnish the cottage, and in the fall, Mr. Palmer also put on a concert for Y. funds.

Another club made its appearance this year, the Old Country Club, with between 40 and 50 brides from the old land, meeting for tea at the Y. Lectures in Canadian home-making proved a great success, too. Possibly as an outgrowth of this, in 1920 a permanent Homemaker's Club was organized to be affiliated with all such clubs in the province. The Bible Study Classes which had lapsed at one time, were revived again and had much success.

In 1920, the Watrous Camp had 206 paying guests and was now well established as one of the Associations' best ventures. A club for girls working in Woolworth's store was formed late in that year. Then early in 1921 a Co-operative Club appeared. There were now five club meetings a week in the building.

Meanwhile, the Travellers' Aid Committee continued to be very active, and after investigating working conditions for girls in cafes, again began to advocate the appointment by the city of a social service worker.

The Watrous Camp opened its season that year with a C.G.I.T. Conference and then continued with a capacity crowd of guests for the remaining summer weeks. Sunday Song Services were now alternating between the Y.M. and the Y.W., and this seemed to generate considerable enthusiasm. Again in 1922, two more clubs were formed, of girls from the Business Colleges and another for girls from the Flanagan Hotel. An open air skating club was also considered.

In 1923 the library had become the Reading Room, and it is mentioned in the minutes that a sum of money was set aside toward the purchase of magazines. Four clubs were active that year, as well as adult and children's gym classes and classes in English, current events, and millinery. In 1924 the Club for New Canadians needing help with English made its appearance again after an absence of a few years. Tennis courts were built on the adjacent lot, and this promised to give much pleasure to the various Y. groups. Later that year, a club for girls in domestic service was formed, and it was to be active

for a good many years under various names. The Hall was made available for Volley Ball and Badminton, and the Y. girls had had a good basketball team for some years.

In the Annual Report for 1924 it was stated that classes in gym, sewing, dancing, basketry, millinery, and china painting were held, as well as lectures in home-making and Christian standards.

1925 finds 120 girls taking part in Club work, and the new Blue Triangle Club was formed. In addition to the classes of former years, paper weaving was taught. November saw a big pageant with the Y.W.C.A. girls appearing in the costumes of girls of other lands where the Y.W.C.A. functions. The home-making lectures were proving very attractive, with a number of women, themselves accomplished in the arts, giving the demonstrations.

In 1926 the number of girls enrolled in clubs and classes had risen to 328. Considerable emphasis was placed on Christian standards, and a very elaborate program was prepared during Passion Week in Lent.

The annual Linen Shower was still featured and every year during these 20's a group of musicians presented a concert in aid of the Y.W.C.A. Fifteen organizations were now meeting in the building, and the latest addition to the classes taught was one in playing that ubiquitous instrument of the time, the ukelele. On a higher level, Mr. Seemmer Betts had consented to conduct a mixed choral group for the winter months, while Miss Crawford, in her couple dancing class, was giving instruction in the Valencian

and the Charleston. We moved with the times! A club for business and professional women was organized later that year.

In 1927 classes included current events, drama, and sculpture. The Girls' Work Committee had as its slogan "A Club for Every Girl." The girls attending classes at the Y.M.C.A. were still under the instruction of Mr. West. The Watrous Camp was now called the Linger Longer Lodge, and a number of teas and benefits were held to help keep its equipment up to date. In 1928 the Board bought an additional 2 1/4 acres near the Camp for \$1,000.00. This year swimming classes for girls and women were held at the Y.M.C.A. pool during the summer. In the fall a mammoth get-together wiener roast was planned to include members of all classes, clubs and groups affiliated with the Y.W.C.A. The gymnasium problem came up again when all who applied for admission to classes could not be accepted. 500 girls were registered in clubs that year. In 1929, six clubs were active, with the usual large number attending gym and other classes. The Hanging of the Greens, which has since become part of our tradition, was noted this year, but whether for the first time or not we cannot be sure.

Finance

This period saw a continual growth and expansion, with finances being well managed despite the business recession of the early 20's. In 1919 the campaign objective was \$3,000.00 but no record of how much was actually received is at hand. Plays, demonstrations, and bazaars were still ways of making money. Local musicians were always generous with their talents too. By 1920 the campaign objective had

increased to \$5,000.00 but it is doubtful if more than \$3,500.00 was collected. Dominion Council again asked for \$250.00. The price of meals went up 5¢ and the annual Tag Day brought in about \$670.00. This year too, two women canvassed Watrous business men for donations and received about \$170.00. The Camp was making fine progress and showed a good profit every year. Most of the money sent to Dominion Council during these years was earmarked for the support of the Western Field Office.

Mortgage payments of \$2,000.00 were made again in 1922, and in this year \$500.00 was sent to Dominion Council. The next two years show much the same pattern as the previous ones. Finances were never in excess of needs but progress was made.

In 1924 a change was made in the ending of the fiscal year from May 31st to December 31st. The year ended on a gala note with the burning of the \$25,000.00 mortgage. It was an evening of much emotion for all who had worked from the very beginning of the movement in the hope of this day. The press gave it a great deal of very fine publicity and every member of the Y.W.C.A. had a right to be proud of the Association.

The Watrous Camp was very successful during these years but other means of fund raising were showing decreasing results. The Tag Days, and Linen Showers were much less popular than in the earlier years. By 1927 a good financial standing was recorded, but nothing particularly noteworthy in the way of making money was observed. We do see, however, a Swimming Pool Fund started in a modest way. The Fund Campaign each year aimed at from \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 although not the full amount appeared

ever to have been collected. During these years it is worth mentioning that a really all-out membership drive was organized, and the results justified the effort.

By 1928, the Tag Day receipts were up, but much depended on the weather for this effort. The next year the receipts were good too, but the hand-writing was on the wall. The City Council decided that no more Tag Days would be granted, and although at least one more was held, this could no longer be counted on as a source of revenue.

So the period ends with finances in a fairly healthy condition, although everything still depended on the energy of the women canvassers, and the generosity of the public.

PERIOD - THE DEPRESSION, 1930 - 1939

Staff

This was a long period and one with many difficulties, and yet some of the best work of the Y.W.C.A. in Saskatoon was done during these trying times. Miss Helen Thompson a recent graduate of the University of Saskatchewan became General Secretary in 1930 and shortly after this Miss Helen Hilton of Calgary was appointed Girls' Work Secretary. Under these two very able leaders, the Y. prospered and a great deal of work was done, particularly with young women. In 1931, the residence lost Mrs. Green who had served faithfully for nearly seven years. In 1934 Miss Marian Wylie was hired as a full time Physical Education Instructor, and Miss Nicholson also worked full time at P.T.

In 1935 both Miss Thompson and Miss Hilton resigned, their places being taken by Miss Owen and Miss Quiggins. Another blow was the resignation of Miss Lillian Wilson from her position as Travellers' Aid Secretary, after 13 years of service. We cannot stress too often how much the Y. W. C. A. owes to women like these who give so much more than we can ever repay.

In 1936 a major change in policy which also affected staff, was the decision to dispense with serving meals except for breakfast for travellers. About this time, too, it was decided to hire a house supervisor, with a competent person in charge who would assist with office duties and do night supervision and any other duty assigned by the General Secretary and the Personnel Committee. The supervisor was to live in Room 5, which has its own private bathroom.

Mrs. Lindsay was appointed House Secretary in 1938, and Miss Land became Executive Director, to be followed the next year by Miss Rae Abernethy. It was some time about here that the title of General Secretary was changed to that of Executive Director, although the duties remained substantially the same.

During this time the work of the Y. W. C. A. in connection with the Employment Bureau was largely taken over by the Government, and this released staff for other duties.

Membership, Board and Committees

The membership had dropped to 430 in 1930 despite the usual teas and drives to encourage members. In 1932 no membership figures are to be found

but club activity had reached a feverish pitch with nearly 1,600 girls participating in 12 clubs under Y.W.C.A. auspices. Totals for the remainder of the depression years are not obtainable but we assume that the figures remained about the same, with considerable increase in Physical Education class memberships

The I.O.D.E. had appointed an official representative to act on the Y Board in 1930, but apparently this did not continue for very long. By 1931, the effects of the depression were becoming more apparent and the Y. set up an Unemployment Relief Committee with the Travellers' Aid Secretary, Miss Lillian Wilson as its head. The object was to attempt to reach and assist all girls who were in real need. That year too, the Employment Bureau was opened again, in an effort to find work for the many who were seeking it

In 1933 Miss Hutchinson from the National Office visited the local Association and, after some observation, made certain recommendations to the Board. Many were later incorporated into permanent policy. Among them were:

1. One finance committee only, to include all conveners. Apparently some committees had been controlling their own funds in a separate bank account, and this was leading to confusion.
2. Directors must first be committee members.
3. Every Director must be a member of a committee.

4. Committee members to visit each other's meetings to co-relate work.
5. Frequent revision of the budget with letters from finance convener reviewing the budget.
6. Advisory Board of men be increased and encouraged to function.
7. A simpler system of bookkeeping to be adopted.

A regional conference (Saskatchewan and Alberta) was mentioned for the first time in 1934, and staff and committee leaders were invited to attend. It is not known if this was possible or not.

The Board, working through Travellers' Aid and the Employment Committee in 1936 approached the Provincial Government with a view to establishing a training course in homecrafts in Saskatoon to help combat the effects of unemployment among girls and women.

The Constitution was still a live issue, and was again in the process of remodelling at this time.

In 1937 the possibility of a Community Chest for the city was first mooted, and the difficulty of getting canvassers for our own financial campaign was becoming acute. In this year the Finance Committee was reorganized as follows: President, Vice-President, General Secretary, two members of the Board, and four outside members. It had previously contained the conveners of all committees.

In 1938 it was recommended that an advisory committee be formed with representatives of the Youth Training Scheme and the Government Employment Bureau so that the link between the Y and these organizations might be maintained at the same time as the Y.W.C.A. gradually relinquished responsibility for placing girls in jobs. This was done, and in 1939, the change over had been accomplished.

In 1939 a Members' Council was formed with representatives of all Clubs and Classes. This too, was the year in which the Association was asked to participate in the Community Chest

Building and Maintenance

The hall adjoining the building seems by now to have been accepted as a permanent fixture and a small room at the back was fitted up as a Club Room for general use or for any girl who wished to make a cup of tea during the afternoon. The Board even went the length of getting an estimate on the cost of a gym and pool, but as it amounted to \$75,000.00 and money was far from plentiful, nothing was done. By 1931 the use of the Y.M.C.A. gym and pool one day a week, had become accepted practice. In 1932 a tour of the building was one of the features of the Open House, the Board members acting as guides. By 1933, just when financial conditions were becoming very bad, major repairs to the heating apparatus were required to the extent of about \$2,500 00. This must have been a serious set-back, when all the money making departments were beginning to show a deficit. Another major change, as we have noted, was in closing the Dining Room, but permitting the residence girls to cook their own meals. This was to be tried a

few months before a final decision was made, but was to prove so satisfactory that the present system of light housekeeping became one of the outstanding successful features of our Y.W.C.A. Since those first experimental days, many improvements have been made, until the present cheerful cream and green kitchen-dining room with its electric stoves, locker refrigerator, and food storage units, make a very attractive and practical room.

By 1934 the annual Linen Shower showed a decided drop in attendance and gifts. It was becoming obvious that the method of financing the building was going to need drastic revision. In 1936 the building was squeezed a bit further, and space was found in the rotunda to build a small office for the Girls' Work Department. In December of that year almost the final links with the dining room were severed, and the cook was no longer required. All through these bad times there are notes of minor repairs and renovations, all done at considerable sacrifice, but every effort was made to keep up appearances and maintain essential services.

Program

This period was to see a tremendous amount of activity in Girls' Clubs even though financing was a recurring nightmare. In 1930, the same clubs were still operating as in the previous year and classes in handicrafts and French had been added. The Bible Class and Sunday vesper service continued to be well attended. The Camp at Watrous had acquired a new building and provision for 110 guests was now possible. By the following year, six clubs were in full swing, and a weekly column on the Women's Page of the Star-Phoenix gave a very full coverage to all their activities.

There was very little publicity otherwise in the newspaper about the Y.W.C.A., but club work was well reported. A Leaders' Club was again organized, and in January 1931, a very ambitious conference, called a Three-ship Conference (Friendship, Fellowship and Worship) was held with 125 girls in attendance, all members of one or another of the Y.W.C.A. Clubs. Throughout 1931 and 1932, a constant stream of meetings, stunt nights, conferences and the like were reported. One big event of 1931 was an Open House on a scale not attempted before, with exhibits and stunts illustrating the work of all the clubs and departments of the Y. This was attended by 1,500 people, and is an indication of the vigor of the Association at that time. A program of gym, swimming and dancing was provided for the summer months that year, too.

In 1932, classes for New Canadians were announced again, this time with the co-operation of Mr. Cram and students from the local Normal School. They were to continue on this basis for several years. A leadership Council was set up that fall too, with a representative from each of the clubs, with the purpose of discussing mutual problems and training for leadership. In view of the difficult times, the Board set up classes in Homecrafts for unemployed girls, or those wishing to increase their ability and earning power.

All this activity, of which only a very small part can be mentioned here seems to spring from the energy and ability of the Girls' Work Secretary, Miss Hilton working in close co-operation with Miss Thompson, the General Secretary, and the Board. We must add to that as well, of course, that the peculiar nature of the conditions at that time made the demand

for work of this sort very great. Miss Hilton also instituted one of the Y's first attempts at counselling and guidance when she let it be known that she would be free to talk to any girl wishing to do so, on Sunday from 2 in the afternoon until 10:30 in the evening

A big Easter service was held again in 1932, and the successful Open House of the previous year was repeated.

A new version of the Business and Professional Women's Club was planned under Y auspices, and was enthusiastically received. By 1933, 17 groups were meeting under the Y. name. In the spring of that year a Membership and Educational Campaign was featured, with Essay Contests and prizes; the following week the Junior Branch held a Bible night with a competition for memorized verses from the Bible. In 1933 the emphasis was being placed more and more on assistance, not necessarily financial only, to the unemployed girl

In 1934, 44 volunteer leaders were helping with classes and club programs as well as the paid staff. A total of 272 unemployed girls were receiving instruction at the Y. By 1935, the burden of social service work had become very heavy for the Travellers' Aid Committee, and arrangements were made with Bethany Hospital to take care of the unmarried mothers. The committee had been doing a great deal of work on the problems of domestic workers, and had drawn up a code governing their terms of employment. The Homecraft classes were a decided success, and many girls obtained positions after completing the course. This led eventually to the setting up of the Youth Training program by the Government, in which the Y. Committee played a very important part. The

Travellers' Aid Committee, too, was appealing to the C.N.R. to provide a desk and lamp with the Travellers' Aid Crest, in the railway station, but so far had received little encouragement. Our impression is that the Committee later purchased the lamp themselves. The Board was very interested at this time in advancing the cause of mental Hygiene clinics, and it is not to be wondered at when one reads the record of frustrated and hopeless women during those sad years

In 1937 only about 9 clubs were active, but they contained about 200 girls. The Leaders' Club was still functioning however. The Board minutes of this year record something of the history of the Physical Education Department, and it is worth giving some of the highlights of it. In 1914 a basketball team was organized by Mrs. Bell. Later, Mrs. Joe Griffiths (then Miss Byers) gave her services as a P.T. instructor, to a group of young girls, and later took charge of the girls' classes which were held at the Y.M.C.A. Finally in 1933, a full time Physical Education instructor was employed in Miss Margaret Nicholson

The Board continued to be interested in girls going out to domestic service and pressed the City Council for an inspector to investigate unfavorable conditions; they were interested too, in obtaining a minimum wage for office workers. The Young Married Women's Club, eventually to be known as the Chatelaine Club, was formed in 1937 with much success.

Throughout these years the work could not expand, but staff and Board continued to give all they could and made up in spiritual resources what they

lacked financially. Regional conferences were held and money was even spared to set aside for an Extension Fund, although this had to be tapped in the worst days. In 1939, 10 clubs were still active, and the lowest ebb had been reached. At the annual meeting of that year, the strongest cry was one that was to be heard every year from then on, lack of space for club work, and lack of equipment and space for Physical Education. 289 members were engaged in club work at that time. The Rooms Registry was mentioned here but was not a formal part of the program yet. A Residence Girls' Club was formed and inquiries were being made about the possibility of setting up a Recreation Unit to serve the West Side of the city. But the War intervened and a new period with problems of its own was upon us.

Finance

One has only to read the preceding paragraphs to realize that this was to be the blackest period financially for the Y.W.C.A., that it had yet seen, but the 1930 Fund Campaign came within a few hundred dollars of reaching its objective of \$3,500.00. The membership was well up and the new building at Watrous Camp, although still in debt to the extent of \$1,500.00, was enabling the camp to entertain 110 guests. By 1931 the Fund Campaign was to be \$4,000.00 and for the first time too, Residence showed a loss of about \$300.00 on the years' operations. The Camp was still self-supporting however. The Star-Phoenix gave a great deal of fine publicity to the fund campaign, but there is no record of the result. The Tag Day which was still held, ran into bad weather as well as bad times, and only a little over \$300.00 was received. The Bank balance in 1931 was at a

dangerous level, only about \$550.00 with another \$1,550 00 in the Extension Fund. The total of free meals and free beds given has risen alarmingly, too, to 1,134 and 383 respectively. A vigorous membership campaign was conducted however, and lack of funds did not impair the activities. The appeal for money was reduced to \$3,500.00 in 1932, and met with a good response. Another Tag Day in May also received about \$425.00. In 1933 committees were still attempting to make money for individual projects but it was becoming very difficult to obtain the needed financial support. As if things were not bad enough the furnace and chimney had to be repaired at a cost of about \$2,500.00. By September 1933 the Board had made a recommendation that a \$1,500 00 bond be cashed to pay taxes, insurance and outstanding bills. Salaries were to be cut, and expenses slashed in every possible way. When Miss Hutchison from National arrived that winter, she gave much good advice on the efficient handling of finances.

In 1934 money came in gradually from canvasses, teas, and socials and apparently they managed to carry on; but February 1935 a motion was adopted that back bills be settled for 50¢ on the \$1.00 where acceptable and in other cases a similar payment would be made with the remainder to be paid when finances permitted. Even with this unhappy position, the Annual Meeting issued a statement in 1935, that the Y.W.C.A. was 75% self-supporting and only 25% dependent upon public generosity. The financial campaign that year set a modest objective of \$2,500.00 but even with all expenses cut, the position was so bad that in November it was decided to cash the last \$1,000 00 bond. In February 1936 debts to the value of about \$170.00 were written off, but

nevertheless the budget showed a deficit of a little more than \$3,000.00. Apparently the heroic efforts to make ends meet were at least partially successful, for by the end of that year, the deficit amounted to only about \$775.00

1937 started out with a Bank loan of \$750.00. About \$2,000.00 was collected in a long-drawn-out and difficult campaign, which even then was better by about \$300.00 than in the previous four years. Debts were again written off and money borrowed from the Bank at 5% interest, but the Board still made every effort to meet its obligations to National and that year \$204 was sent. Even the Camp had a deficit of \$360.00 by now and it was decided to use the money in the Extension Fund for much needed repairs to the building. About \$1,200.00 was spent this way. The pattern of the Bank loan at the beginning of the year was repeated in 1939, but that year for the first time, the Y.W.C.A. joined the Saskatoon Community Chest, which had just been formed. Teas and benefits were still being held but from this time on the financial situation, if not brighter, is considerably more predictable. The complete budget for that year was \$14,030, with \$3,000 being raised by the Chest Campaign.

PERIOD - SECOND WORLD WAR, 1940 - 1945

Staff

It might have been thought that a second war well within the memory of adults, coming after the strain and tension of a country-wide depression, would have caused a complete collapse of Y.W.C.A. activities. We know, of course, that this was far

from the case. The Association rose to a woman to meet the new challenge and fresh vitality poured into clubs and classes with the greater demands on their resources. The Y.W.C.A. will die only when the need for it no longer exists.

The staff was ready for service in many new ways. A community War Work Committee had been formed, and Mrs. Chatwin was appointed to the Hostess Division. This was a development of the action of the National Council, in which they offered the services of the Y.W.C.A. to the Government, in establishing Hostess Houses near army camps. These were intended as homes in which women could meet their men who were in the services. In 1941 a Hostess House was established at Dundurn, an army camp, and the following year a similar one was set up at Dafoe, an air camp. These were very successful and were administered by a local Y.W.C.A. Committee set up for that purpose.

Mrs. Chappel was appointed in 1941 as a part time War Services Secretary, and 25 volunteers from this committee inspected rooms for the Rooms Registry service. The latter organization continued to be most helpful during all the war years, as accommodation became very scarce. A special branch was set up for wives and families of service men, but the demand was always greater than the accommodation available.

Miss Florence Matthews was Travellers' Aid Secretary as well as Residence Secretary in 1942, and late that year Mrs. Blair took over full time duties as War Services Secretary. In 1943, Miss Rae Abernethy, who had been General Secretary for 3 1/2 years, resigned to become Personnel Secretary for

National Council, and later in the year, her place was taken by Mrs. Garth Walker. The intervening months were filled in, very capably by a local Y.W.C.A. member, Mrs. J. B. Fraser, who has stepped into the breach to help out the Y.W. on many occasions. In 1944, Miss Martha Lange became Girls' Work Secretary, but by the end of 1945 we had lost Mrs. Walker and also the Physical Education Secretary, Miss Greta Schwartz.

Membership, Board and Committees

Membership in club activities was the main record kept during these years. This varied from 484 in 1940, both up and down until by the end of 1945, there was a marked decline due to a number of factors; the opening of the Recreation Centre, the greater mobility of families during wartime, as well as early marriages, were all contributing factors.

These were the years when regional conferences and planning conferences were featured. Saskatoon always sent delegates, and in 1945, the conference was held here. In 1943 the Membership Committee had a really big drive to enlist new members. They had 225 at the time and hoped to get 300 more. However, only about 175 were added. A real effort was made to hold the interest of new members, and make the Y. meaningful, with a candle light dedication ceremony in the late fall.

National Council continued its policy of sending out at least one, and often more of its officials to visit the various branches. These visits were always welcome and were usually of real value to the Board.

and staff

The Board was still working on the Constitution and had prepared certain amendments in 1942 Members' Council suggested having two representatives from various Y.W.C.A. groups attend a Board meeting to bring about a closer liaison between them, and this was done. That year too, the Board reduced its membership to 25. A readjustment of committees was also made and it is interesting to see what was now considered to be essential.

1. Travellers' Aid and War Services in one committee.
2. Members' Council instead of Membership Committee.
3. Program, amalgamating Health Education, Religious Education and Post War Planning.
4. Residence.
5. Camp.
6. Personnel.
7. Hostels.
8. Finance

The various committees found much to occupy them as usual Travellers' Aid naturally enough, became more and more busy as the war years drew on. Every year the need for a home for delinquent girls was a major recommendation both of this committee and of the Board. The committee was

still interested also, in the welfare of domestic workers, particularly those going out to farms. They concerned themselves with the conditions and working hours of school girls working for their board and room; and, with the co-operation of the Home Economics staff of the city colleges drew up a workable schedule. They pointed out the need of a health certificate for cafe employees. By 1945 their work had reached an all-time high, with assistance given to 8,400 people. Over 11,000 people had come to the Y. with housing problems.

Another very active committee too, was one at first joined with Travellers' Aid but later set up alone, the War Services Committee. They accomplished an almost unbelievable amount, inspected lodgings for service men's families, arranged hospitality in homes, dances, fireside evenings at the Y. for service personnel, free gym classes for the women of the C.W.A.C., and organized the Junior Hostess Club of girls 17 and over who then arranged dances and entertainment for service men. A preliminary training course was set up for these girls and over 170 of them enrolled.

The Post War Planning Committee was represented on the Saskatoon Rehabilitation Committee and in January of 1944, presented a brief to the Provincial Reconstruction Council. Miss Jean Hall of National Council gave the committee great praise for this work.

Other work initiated by committees was a course on Christian marriage and a series of studies on "The Personal Religious Life."

Building and Maintenance

As might be expected, when such heavy demands were being made on all aspects of the Y.W.C.A., money to spend on maintenance of the building had to be scrutinized very closely indeed before being used. The question of an automatic coal stoker was debated but no decision reached. The largest sum had to be sent in 1940 in repairing the roof, but this was an essential repair. A very happy custom was gradually developing, of various Clubs giving the Y.W.C.A. furnishings or the wherewithal to purchase them. The Chatelaine Club in 1940 redecorated a bedroom and in 1943 the Air Force Auxiliary gave a supply of kitchen equipment. In 1944 an extensive rejuvenation program was carried out, with painting, new draperies, and false ceilings to lower the unduly high ones in part of the original building. The housing shortage by 1945 was critical and the capacity of the building was taxed to the utmost. Beds were set up in every available nook. Finally, however, the Badminton Club was taken over by the city, and the Y.W.C.A. operated it as a Hostel, to accommodate 50 to 60 girls.

During 1942 and 1943, the Board conducted tours of the building on Membership Night, but when space became so congested later, these were discontinued.

Program

The clubs were somewhat overshadowed by war work in these years, naturally, but anywhere from 8 to 10 groups remained active for most of the period. They were varied in nature, some old ones

persisted, several new ones sprang up. In 1943 a club for household workers was still very active but as the war continued there grew to be fewer and fewer women in domestic service, and the need for this club had waned by 1945. A Dramatic Club was organized in 1941, and a reading group and a mother-craft group in 1942 were both popular. A String Ensemble was a new departure one year. In 1943 one of the most active clubs was a Charm Clinic for Junior Business Girls. Club members did a great deal of war work too, of course, and assisted with the T.B. survey, and were blood donors in 1943. A group of nature lovers formed an Outdoor Club and went on hikes and picnics. We have mentioned the Junior Hostess Club, one of the most popular of all, and then by 1945 the Overseas Wives Club was a natural outgrowth of the war. One of the most famous clubs was organized in 1942, as a Craft Class, specializing in Petit Point embroidery. It grew enormously and by 1945 each year had held a large and well attended display. Eventually its numbers overflowed the Y.W.C.A., and it was forced to seek a home elsewhere.

War services and military personnel prompted many activities. Wives of service men were welcomed and a good deal was done for them in many clubs. Service auxiliaries used the hall, and in all, about 250 volunteer workers assisted in various phases of war work. The sale of War Savings Stamps was encouraged and for the first few years of the war, a great deal of effort went into collecting money for Mrs Churchill's Fund for British Women in the Forces. Buttons were sold at a booth at the Fair several years, and a huge Dutch Auction had an attendance of 400 in 1942.

The Physical Education work was not neglected; indeed, classes were always full to overflowing, but facilities were limited then, as now. In 1942 the Y.M.C.A. could no longer spare us time for our classes so we were restricted to whatever could be done in the hall, which now was more frequently known as the Gym. \$100.00 was spent on equipment and the P.T. Department carried on. Dancing classes came to be the most sought-after. In 1941, social dancing for teen-age boys and girls was well attended. Classes were given one year for the youngsters at the Children's Shelter. In 1941 Club girls, after a training course by Mr. G. Ward, Head of the Playgrounds Department, assisted in supervising the city paddling pools.

A Health Week was sponsored in September 1942, with a series of four lectures. There was an encouraging attendance. Each year the Hanging of the Greens in December was featured, and most of these years saw an All-Association banquet, as well as the usual quota of conferences. Physical Education Department reviews were held each year, too, and there were Penny Carnivals, Bridges, and various smaller social and money-making schemes.

In 1945 Choice Nite was introduced, a period of eight weeks, in which about 40 girls chose one of a variety of classes such as, charm, books, marriage talks, dramatics, making Christmas gifts, and sketching. 1945 too, saw the first National Convention in five years, which our President Mrs. Eddy, attended. It was a deeply moving experience to receive reports of Y.W. efforts to survive in other lands.

Finance

As we suggested previously, making a budget and sticking to it now, was a somewhat easier matter, with the contribution from the Community Chest assured. Even in the early years of the Chest, we did not always get all the money we asked for, but never so much less that we couldn't manage by a little judicious penny-pinching. The gradual rise in our requests from the Chest is an indication both of the increasing cost of living, and also the increasing services offered. Then, too, when the dining room closed, we lost what had been one of our best sources of revenue. The big money-raising schemes which had been such a feature in the past were now much curtailed. All fund raising dealt pretty directly with the War Effort, and also it was felt that, as we were now a Chest Agency, we could not appeal to the public for any further financial assistance. A few small affairs were still held by individual committees but on nothing like the scale previously attempted.

In 1941 we received a bit over \$4,000.00 from the Chest and this rose by gradual degrees to something over \$6,000.00 in 1945.

Rummage sales were popular in 1940 and 1941 but seldom earned more than \$50.00 to \$75.00. The effort on behalf of Mrs. Churchill's Fund, by the end of 1941 totalled \$633 12. Collections were made from several projects to assist Y.W.C.A.'s in other parts of the world, notable Hungary in 1940 and China in 1943.

The Annual Reports of 1942 and 1943 give evidence of a satisfactory financial standing and this trend continued up to the end of the war.

PERIOD - THE COLD WAR, 1946 - 1953

Staff

This section brings our record up-to-date, and consequently is a little more difficult to see in perspective. The restlessness which is the normal aftermath of war affected the Y.W.C.A. staff too, and we find a number of personnel changes in all departments. Miss Phyllis Trotter was Executive Director for three years, from 1946 to 1949, when she left to complete her studies in Social Work. Then for periods of about a year each, Mrs. Isabel White, Miss Isabel Shaw, and Miss Margaret Bannatyne held the position. In the early days of 1952, Mrs. S. Hayhurst came to us from a Government Welfare Department and we are most happy to state that she is still with us. Again Mrs. J. B. Fraser took over the reigns twice in this period, when we were between Executive Directors, so to speak. Mrs. Mitchell, who had acted as Travelers' Aid Secretary for some years, retired in 1949, and her place was taken by Mrs. F. Irvine; Mrs. Mitchell, however, was recalled as a relief assistant and is fortunately still able to help us in that capacity.

The Residence Director at the beginning of this period was Mrs. Baker, and she was succeeded by Mrs. Innis Ebbels in 1949. Mrs. Ebbels was no stranger to the Y.W.C.A. having been Evening Desk Secretary for some six years. She returned to that position when Mrs. J. Finlayson became Residence Director in about 1950. Mrs. M. MacDonald is the present Residence Director, having taken over her duties in the summer of 1953.

The situation in regard to Health and Physical Education was becoming quite difficult by 1947.

It was hard to get staff and the facilities were not such as to tempt trained people. The Health Education and Program Secretaries in those years, Miss Marian Walker, Miss Peggy Dunn, Mrs. Frances Neale, and Miss Ruth Douglas, all did excellent work with the material we had to offer. Then in 1952, a new idea was tried and found very satisfactory. Mrs. C. D. Rogers, who had been associated with Y. work from her early girlhood, and who had been assisting by playing for various classes, was asked to take over the organization of the Program, with the assistance of about eight local young women from University, Normal School, or the teaching staff of the city schools. These girls acted as instructors, each in her special field of Physical Education. This has worked out admirably and the P T. Classes are much in demand, to the point of being over-crowded. Summer swimming has always far more seeking admission than can be accepted. It is frustrating to think how much more could be done with adequate facilities, but we may hope that our day will come. New Labour Legislation brought its own problems, too. Maintenance staff hours and wages had to be adjusted and a certain amount of difficulty was encountered in finding people for the various jobs, at the salary we could afford to pay. In 1944, the maintenance staff was placed under Workmen's Compensation, and the liability policy adjusted to cover the rest of the staff.

As the war years ended, the need for the Rooms Registry gradually decreased and by the end of 1946, Mrs. Hewlett closed the office.

The Y.W.C.A. had always done a great deal of social service work as part of its program, in an informal way, but, as Welfare Agencies became more highly organized both on city and provincial levels,

there grew up a high degree of co-operation between them and the Y.W.C.A. We have been fortunate in having Residence Directors and Executive Directors who have been skilled in this type of work.

National Council, during the last few years, has instituted a policy of holding brief training courses for staff, and many members of the Saskatoon Y.W.C.A. Executive staff have had an opportunity to take a refresher course of this type.

Membership, Board and Committees

The totals for membership during this last period show quite a decided divergence. In 1946 there were only 144 members, which was indeed a low figure when the Annual Report states that 3,000 people used the facilities and service of the Y.W.C.A. in that year. This number of members increased to 349 by the next year, however, and continued a fairly regular rise. In 1951 there were 253 Senior and 278 Junior members, while in 1953 the very encouraging total of 515 Senior and 461 Junior members was recorded. In 1952 National Council introduced the Electoral Membership. This cost no more but required the members to sign an acceptance of the Purpose of the Y.W., and it was felt this would encourage greater sense of participation and responsibility among those who subscribed to it.

National continued the practice of sending staff members from headquarters out to visit the branches, and each year in this period saw at least one such visitor. Occasionally the visit coincided with the Annual Meeting or a Membership Tea, and

it was always stimulating and helpful. In accordance with advice given by National staff members some years before, the Advisory Board had been strengthened and proved a great source of help to the Association in many ways.

There were a few regional conferences in these years, but, as the number of clubs in the Saskatoon Y.W.C.A. diminished, so did the enthusiasm and need for the conferences. The Executive Director and one Board Member, usually the President, attended the National Convention almost every year, and it was felt that the whole Association benefited from this contact.

Around 1947, the question of possible amalgamation of the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. became quite insistent, and a special committee of the Board worked on it for several years. Finally, in 1951, it was definitely decided that amalgamation was not the answer to the problems of either branch.

The various Y. committees carried on with their customary work, along much the same lines as they had always done. Personnel work of late years has grown in scope, and that committee has done excellent work in maintaining good relations between staff, Board and the public. They succeeded in having salaries raised to a point where they were at least comparable to those in business offices, and also did a great deal of work in making complete job descriptions for the various positions.

As the number of clubs affiliated with the Y. decreased, the need for Members' Council also ceased to exist, and the Membership Committee

again acted as a single unit, although in 1953, it was decided to join to it the former committee on Religious Emphasis. This latter group had been responsible during the last three years, for organizing the very attractive Buffet Internationale. As many nationalities as possible are asked to help in the preparation of distinctive dishes, and the whole effort has had a great success. The money made is earmarked for the World Service Fund.

Travellers' Aid Committee continued to serve with great energy and effect. Sixteen church groups are represented on the Committee and meet with the smaller permanent group three times yearly. With the influx of immigrants in these past few years, the work of the Travellers' Aid is as heavy as at any time in its history.

A Public Affairs Committee was active for a couple of years, but then ceased to exist. Other groups seemed to be doing the same work.

The Publicity Committee was formally organized in 1951, and has since developed into a very alert unit. There has always been publicity for the Y.W.C.A., but it is felt that when a central body is responsible for selecting, clearing, and issuing all publicity much more effective coverage is guaranteed. As always, press and radio have been most co-operative, and Y. owes much to their help through the years.

Although the Y.W.C.A. no longer operates an Employment Bureau, as it did in the first years, a good deal of work of that nature is still done. Many girls and women come to the Y. with the intention of seeking work in the city, and since domestic help has

been so difficult to secure these post war years, a great many women wanting either household helpers or practical nurses, check with the Y. We are able to place quite a number in this way. No fee is charged for the service.

Building and Maintenance

During 1946 and 1947 the Residence was a very busy place. Literally thousands had been in and out of the building for one reason or another, and that naturally posed many problems of upkeep and repair, as well as everyday maintenance. As soon as time and staff permitted after the strenuous war years, a thorough cleaning and painting program was begun; since then, regular painting and as much renovating as possible has been on the yearly plan. In 1948, the outside of the building was painted cream, brightening the whole effect, for while the dark green terra cotta trim had been much admired as something new and different in 1912, it no longer contrasted so effectively with the somewhat dingy brick. Two new fire escapes were ordered by the Provincial Fire Commission that year, and installed. Since then, almost all the rooms, halls, and public rooms, have been painted and decorated at least once. We are most grateful to various clubs which have contributed furnishings. The Business and Professional Women's Club in particular has completely furnished, rewired, and decoarted three bedrooms, and they are much in demand. In 1950 a large institutional refrigerator was purchased for the use of the permanent residence girls. It provides for 24 individual lockers, and has proven an enormous convenience. Then, in 1952, after much soul-searching and scanning of the budget, an oil burner was purchased. The problem of keeping

a satisfactory caretaker had become acute. We had remodelled two basement rooms and a bathroom into a janitor's quarters, but it seemed difficult to get anyone but an older man to take the position, and the heavy work of firing coal was too much for their strength. The oil burner has solved this problem, and with the addition of a Gas Water Heater, the whole basement is now a much cleaner and pleasanter place. A complete electric laundry unit of washer, dryer, and rotary ironer was installed that year as well.

The summer of 1953 brought a brief and disastrous storm which caused serious flooding and consequent damage in the basement. Fortunately we were covered fairly adequately by insurance, and repairs were possible to most of the equipment. Two new electric stoves had just been given by a service club, however, and it was heart-breaking to see these damaged too. The storm brought a wonderful example of teamwork and enthusiastic aid, however, from staff, permanent residents and volunteers. Later that year a new boiler had to be installed, and thanks to the energy of the Advisory Board, in approaching citizens and clubs, it was paid for without our going into debt.

The North Park Hostel which had been operated toward the end of the war, continued for a year or two but as those girls gradually were absorbed into the community, the demand for this type of accommodation lessened and in 1948 the Hostel closed, after having housed 235 girls during its existence.

Program

The over all picture of program activities shows a decided change by now. The heyday of Y. Clubs appears gradually to be passing. It is difficult to decide exactly why this is so. Partly lack of staff and lack of space and equipment might be blamed but it seems to be more a natural shift of interests. Greek letter sororities for the young business and pre-business women have grown very strong, and seem to attract a number of girls who would have been in the Y. Clubs formerly. The Y.M.C.A. program for teens of both sexes also has a large following. On the other hand, the P.T. classes are very well attended at the Y.W.C.A. The age group we appear to be serving most is the 3 - 13 year olds with particular interest shown in the various types of dancing classes.

Late in the war the series called "Choice Nite" was begun, and proved acceptable. This continued under various names, the latest being "Variety Y", until about 1949. The series lasted from 6 - 8 weeks, and certainly offered a variety of subjects. We might list just a few that appeared on different occasions: drama, ballroom dancing, book reviews, handicrafts, the art of entertaining, bridge, making Christmas gifts, and lectures on psychology, preparation for marriage, Democracy in action, as well as a good many others.

For most of these years however, about six clubs were active each year. One novel and interesting group was known as "Ladies Day Out". Mothers with young children attended, and while they took a variety of hobby and P.T. classes, the

children were also looked after in the nursery or in classes suited to their age and interests.

Another Club that has served as a pattern for various similar ones through the country is the Baby Sitters' Club, organized by the Chatelaine Club in 1947. In 1950 it included some 45 girls. The girls are given training in child care and a schedule of rates and rules has been worked out. References are required and bookings are made through the Y.

There were other clubs, too, but the greater part of the work during these last few years has been in Physical Education. In the section dealing with staff we have told of the present arrangement, with a group of part time instructors. This seems to work very well, and the classes are crowded. In 1953 the total number of part time instructors was 25, teaching 34 classes in swimming, gym, crafts, and various types of dancing. The Y.W. again rented the Y.M. pool for 1 1/4 hours a week, and during the summer, rented the University pool for a very popular summer swimming class. About 17 groups use the Y regularly as a meeting place. Not all of these, of course, are Y clubs. Indeed, there has been a greater tendency over the last few years to rent the Living Room and Assembly Room, with or without the accompanying service kitchen to any group wanting a meeting place. There is a considerable demand for such a room in Saskatoon, and we are also able to help our finances this way. Care is taken by the Executive staff, however, not to rent the rooms on occasions when the Y. itself might need them, and the residence girls usually have the use of these rooms Saturday evenings and Sunday. They have as well, a smaller club room on the first floor, although

they are not permitted to take their men friends up there

The situation in regard to the Watrous Camp is rather a sad one in a way. For many years, as this chronicle has told, it was such a popular resort, and a reliable source of revenue. With the war's end, though, gasoline restrictions were removed and people went further afield for their pleasure. The resort and our Lodge as well, started to lose ground in 1947. Food costs had risen and staff was difficult to obtain, in addition to the other disadvantages mentioned. We continued, however, until the end of the 1951 season. For two years we had operated at a loss, although it had also been used as a holiday camp for girls, some of them unable to have any other vacation, and sponsored by local service clubs. For example, in 1948, there were 80 girls along with directors and supervisors at the camp, and 10 of the girls had been sent by the subscribed Camp Fund. Finally in 1953, an opportunity arose to sell the property to Saskatoon Presbyterial of the United Church, and, not without some feelings of nostalgic regret, this was done.

For about seven years a successful Stay-at-Home Camp or Day Camp was operated during the summer at the Y. for about ten days or more. Anywhere from 50 to 80 girls took part in these ventures and it proved a worth while effort at the time.

We have attempted to mention only the outstanding features of Program. There have been many other activities, some successful, others, experiments which did not prove to be of lasting value. The Y.W.C.A. still stands ready, nevertheless, to organize groups or classes whenever a demand for

them seems to exist. We were pleased to be able to share in the founding of a new club for older women, the Friendship Club, by offering space in our building for their meetings. Unfortunately, they rapidly out grew our accommodation and had to move to more spacious quarters, but it was a contact with an age group which had not previously been much within our orbit.

Finance

While no one on the Finance Committee would agree with this statement, in some ways the story of Y. financing in this period is much less interesting than it was 30 or 40 years ago. Today, the estimate of expenses is prepared by each committee, supervised by the Finance Committee, and a budget prepared and submitted to Community Chest. We are required, of course, to make the most of all our resources, and not a penny is wasted. Indeed, we have many places for every penny, but there is no longer the frenzied search for novel ways of appealing to a jaded public for money to carry on the essential work. The funds obtained from the Chest have risen through this last period quite rapidly. In 1946 we asked for \$7,200; in 1950 for \$10,000; and in 1953 for \$11,700. A certain amount of fund raising outside of the Chest donation is permitted, most notable being the previously mentioned "Buffet Internationale" for the World Service Fund. The first year it was held, 1951, the proceeds were only about \$250.00, but in 1953 about \$375.00 was taken in, and the Fund finally received \$444.20, the additional sum having been collected by donation from individuals and groups interested in Y. work. A further source of revenue in 1953 was the sale of the Watrous Camp. This brought in \$2,000.00 that year, with an additional

\$2,000.00 to be paid the following year.

One rather serious situation is the Travelers' Aid work. A grant of \$2,000.00 is presently received from the city for this work, but this amount falls short by at least \$500.00 of the sum needed to carry on.

The Residence is always well patronized. Twenty-five permanent residents can be accommodated and for several years there has been a waiting list. Girls must be between the ages of 17 and 23, and are permitted to remain only two years. A certain amount of judicious supervision is maintained by the Residence Director and many parents feel much relieved to be able to leave their girls in this type of residence. Rooms for transient guests are in constant demand too, and although rates have had to be increased in line with rising costs on every hand, care is taken that beds are still available at \$1.00 a night for those whose funds are limited.

While the financial picture seems so much brighter and more stable than it did in the early days, we must not forget that we are still almost completely dependent for about half our revenue (that derived from Community Chest) upon the door-to-door canvasser. So, basically we have not changed very much in this aspect of our work, from the days when a handful of intrepid women first started out in 1910 to ask the citizens of Saskatoon for money to start a Y.W.C.A.,

We are well aware that the story we have tried to tell here is inadequate in many respects. We have been hampered by the loss of all records for many years; the only source of information being the reports in the newspapers of those years. There are many names, too, which have been omitted, not because we are unaware of the value of the service performed, but because there is a limit to the number of names which can be included in this type of article; we have tried to restrict them to key personnel, with the accent on those who served in the very early years of the Association. We feel however, that no one who takes part in Y.W.C.A. work does so for the personal glory involved or in hope of lavish expressions of gratitude. The knowledge of the value of the work, and the satisfaction in being part of this great sisterhood of women in every corner of the globe, is the only reward one seeks, so we are sure that none will be offended by the omission of her name from this history of the Y.W.C.A. in Saskatoon.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Minutes of the Board Meeting when available.

Scrap books of clippings.

Annual Reports when available.

For the years 1910-1914; 1930, 1931, 1932 and part of 1933; 1942; no record of any kind was to be found and the record is based on a search of the daily newspaper, the Star-Phoenix, for those dates.

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SASKATOON Y.W.C.A.

PRESIDENTS

Mrs John Ashworth	1910
Mrs. W. C. Murray	1911
Mrs. L. G. Calder	1913
Mrs Jas. R. Wilson	1914
Mrs. W. H. Cleveland	1916
Mrs. Jas. R. Wilson	1918
Mrs. Russell Roome	1920
Mrs. W. L. Noyes	1921
Mrs. R. B. Irvine	1922
Mrs. R. B. Irvine and Mrs. W. L. Noyes	1925
Mrs. W. L. Noyes	1926
Mrs. J. T. M. Anderson	1927
Mrs. J. T. M. Anderson and Mrs. Keith Murphy	1929
Mrs. R. J. Donnell	1931
Mrs J. E. Fawcett	1932
Mrs Conboy	1935
Mrs. Oliver	1937
Miss Hattie Wolfe	1938
Mrs. A. M. Eddy	1942
Mrs. C. M. Suggitt	1946
Mrs. W. G. Brigman and Mrs C. E. Medland	1948
Mrs. C. E. Medland	1949
Mrs. H. L. Fowler	1951
Mrs. LeRoy Holmes	1955

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